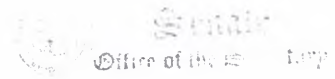


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE

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P.S. RES. NO. 65

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS GEARED TOWARDS THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, SUCH AS REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8435, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997," AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10601, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MECHANIZATION (AFMECH) LAW", WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE POLICY GAPS IN IMPROVING AND ACCELERATING SAID MODERNIZATION, THEREBY ADDRESSING PRODUCTIVITY, POVERTY, AND FOOD SECURITY

1 WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 15 of the Philippine 1987 Constitution provides
2 that, "The State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners,
3 as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate
4 in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide
5 support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate
6 financial, production, marketing, and other support services";

7 WHEREAS, Title 1, Chapter 1, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise
8 known as the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997" provides that: "It
9 is the policy of the State to ensure that all sectors of the economy and all regions of
10 the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop through the rational and
11 sustainable use of resources peculiar to each area in order to maximize the agricultural
12 productivity, promote efficiency and equity and accelerate the modernization of the
13 agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country";

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10601, otherwise known as
2 the "Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law," establishes a National
3 Agri-fishery Mechanization Program, to be conducted by the Department of
4 Agriculture, which has, among its objectives, the unification and support of efforts of
5 various institutions directed towards the research, design, and development of
6 agricultural and fisheries machinery, as well as the promotion of the adoption of
7 certified agricultural and fisheries machinery for improving agriculture and fishery
8 productivity;

9 WHEREAS, in accordance with a 2022 report¹ from the Department of
10 Agriculture, there appears to be a disparity between the country's population growth
11 and the growth of the country's agricultural sector, with the former expanding at 1.4
12 per cent in 2019 and the latter growing only by 0.5% in 2020;

13 WHEREAS, in the 2020 Report² of the World Bank entitled *Transforming*
14 *Philippine Agriculture: During COVID-19 and Beyond*, the World Bank stressed the
15 importance of turning Philippine agriculture into a high-growth sector, not only
16 because it addresses food security, but also because it is an effective method for
17 poverty reduction;

18 WHEREAS, the emergence and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as
19 that of the African Swine Fever caused and is still causing a strain not only on the
20 physical health of the Filipinos but also on the health of the agricultural sector³, despite
21 being considered as among the economic drivers of the country,

22 WHEREAS, among the factors worsening the strain on the agricultural sector
23 are the recurring breakdowns in transportation and logistics, the inadequate number
24 of health facilities to help minimize and control the spread of the virus, aimless import

¹ DA Communications Group, "Facing the big challenges in Philippine agriculture," 05 June 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.da.gov.ph/facing-the-big-challenges-in-philippine-agriculture/>, retrieved on 26 July 2022.

² The World Bank, *Transforming Philippine Agriculture: During COVID-19 and Beyond*. (World Bank Group: June 2020). p.viii. Retrieved from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34012/Transforming-Philippine-Agriculture-During-COVID-19-and-Beyond.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>, retrieved on 26 July 2022.

³ DA Communications Group, "Facing the big challenges in Philippine agriculture," 05 June 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.da.gov.ph/facing-the-big-challenges-in-philippine-agriculture/>, retrieved on 26 July 2022.

1 liberalization, as well as an unsystematic system of distribution of amelioration
2 assistance especially to the rural masses⁴,

3 WHEREAS, in his first State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand
4 "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. emphasized the need to prioritize the modernization of the
5 technology behind our agricultural sector, increasing aquafarms, hog and poultry
6 farms, thereby favoring the increase of local production⁵;

7 WHEREAS, recognizing the fact that there are laws in place which specifically
8 provide for the modernization of our agricultural sector, there is a need to determine
9 the status of these modernization efforts and their full implementation in accordance
10 with existing Philippine laws, such as Republic Act No. 8435 and Republic Act No.
11 10601;

12 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate
13 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation
14 of laws geared towards the modernization of the Philippine agricultural sector, such
15 as Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the "Agriculture and Fisheries
16 Modernization Act of 1997," and Republic Act No. 10601, otherwise known as the
17 "Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law", with the end in view of
18 identifying possible policy gaps in improving and accelerating said modernization,
19 thereby addressing productivity, poverty, and food security.

Adopted,


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

⁴ Cristina Eloisa Bacig, "Pandemic worsens gov't neglect of PH agriculture," 27 October 2021.
Retrieved from: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1507264/pandemic-worsens-govt-neglect-of-ph-agriculture>,
retrieved on 26 July 2022.

⁵ Danessa Rivera, "Agricultural groups laud Marcos commitment to modernize farms, support
farmers," 26 July 2022. Retrieved from:
<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/26/2198036/agricultural-groups-laud-marcos-commitment-modernize-farms-support-farmers>,
retrieved on 26 July 2022.