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SENATE

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P. S. RESOLUTION NO. 393

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
TO LOOK INTO THE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY THAT IMPACT ON THE
SUPPLY OF RICE OF THE COUNTRY VIS-À-VIS THE GOAL OF THE
PHILIPPINES IN ATTAINING COMPLETE SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF RICE
BY 2013

WHEREAS, the Philippines, currently the world's top importer of rice, needs to review its programs and policies on rice to keep up with the country's increasing population, surging food prices and rising cost of agricultural inputs;

WHEREAS, the Philippines was once one of the major producers of rice in Asia but now faces serious challenges in accelerating agricultural outputs and ensuring adequate rice supply for future generations;

WHEREAS, the National Food Authority is an agency attached to the Department of Agriculture primarily tasked with ensuring the food security of the country and the stability of supply and price of the staple grain-rice. The NFA is vested with the functions of the procurement of rice from farmers and their organizations, buffer stocking, processing activities, dispersal of paddy and milled rice to strategic locations and distribution of the staple grain to various marketing outlets;

WHEREAS, the National Food Authority was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 4 on September 26, 1972 under the name National Grains Authority (NGA). Its original mandate was to promote the growth and development of the grains industry covering rice, corn, feed grains and other grains like sorghum, mungo, and peanut. With the creation of the NGA, the Rice and Corn Board (RICOB) and the Rice and Corn Administration (RCA) were abolished. The NGA assumed the functions of the two agencies which covered regulating the rice and corn retail trade and marketing or distribution of government low-priced rice especially during lean months. On January 14, 1981 Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1770 was issued and renamed the NGA into what is now the National Food Authority;

WHEREAS, the government, through the National Food Authority, imports rice to make up for production shortfall and to ensure that the NFA has a buffer stock. Rice reserves are necessary during lean months as a mechanism to prevent a shortage in rice supply;

WHEREAS, as of 2009 the National Food Authority has accumulated debts amounting to P171 billion, from only approximately P43 billion in 2003;

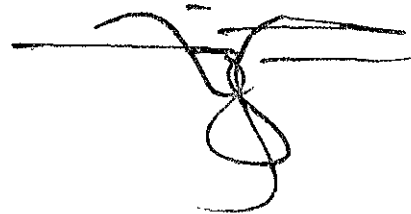
WHEREAS, the government is set on introducing reforms in the National Food Authority to ease the pressure on rice importation and lessen the risk of the agency to incur additional debts;

WHEREAS, the reforms shall cover efforts to improve the agriculture productivity, access of farmers to quality seeds, improving irrigation systems and providing financing schemes for farmers;

WHEREAS, the reforms will include policy shifts like transferring to the farmer associations and private traders the task of importing rice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to look into the programs and activities of the National Food Authority that impact on the supply of rice of the country vis-à-vis the goal of the Philippines in attaining complete self-sufficiency of rice by 2013.

ADOPTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal line, positioned to the right of the word 'ADOPTED'.