

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 810

JUL 10 2015

Introduced by Sen. Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND ON TRADE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FAILURE TO STOP RAMPANT MEAT AND OFFAL SMUGGLING THAT THREATENS THE VIABILITY OF THE LOCAL SWINE INDUSTRY, UNDERMINES MEASURES TO ENSURE SUPPLY OF HIGH-QUALITY MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS AND DIMINISHES GOVERNMENT REVENUES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ATTAINING FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY AND STRENGTHENING THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, enhancing the capacity of the swine industry helps achieve food security and rural poverty eradication, which are the goals of the agricultural sector;

WHEREAS, the swine industry supplies part of the country's protein requirements as two thirds of total swine heads nationwide, or 7.98 million, are raised in backyards and a third, or 3.88 million, in commercial farms at the start of 2012;

WHEREAS, smuggling of pork and offal continues unabated to the detriment of local hog raisers and at a great loss to the government coffers as exemplified by the 87 million kilogram contraband worth P15 Billion in 2011 alone despite the already huge authorized importation of 140,847 metric tons worth \$85.84 Million in the same year;

WHEREAS, smuggling threatens the viability of the local swine industry that provides massive employment as a sub-sector of agriculture;

WHEREAS, smuggling diminishes the support of the swine industry to feeds producers such as rice and corn farmers and potential meat and bone meal feeds producers;

WHEREAS, hog raisers assert that various factors exacerbate pork meat and offal smuggling, as follows:

1. The Department of Agriculture (DA), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) and Department of Trade and Industry's lack of access to documents that would alert the said agencies on illegal meat and offal shipments;
2. Grant of permits to import by the Bureau of Customs (BoC) to more than a hundred non-meat processors who also mis-declared prime pork meat as offal to evade the payment of 40 per cent tariff; and
3. Entry through the Free Ports of meat and offal shipments consigned to non-processors and exporters;

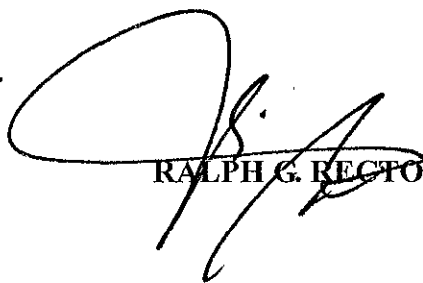
WHEREAS, meat smuggling diminishes the government's ability to ensure that food served in our homes and institutional food outlets such as school canteens, hotels, restaurants and local eateries

are of the best quality, satisfy sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards and consumed as fresh as possible from its nearest domestic sources;

WHEREAS, there are reports that the DA, the NMIS and the BoC fail to ensure food safety for the protection of direct consumers, meat processors and exporters due to lack of timely and critical coordination in the inspection of shipments further impeding the implementation of appropriate quarantine procedures and safe handling of meat and offal shipments;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Committees on Agriculture and Food, on Health and Demography and on Trade and Commerce to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the failure to stop rampant meat and offal smuggling that threatens the viability of the local swine industry, undermines measures to ensure supply of high-quality meat and meat products and diminishes government revenues with the end in view of attaining food safety and security and strengthening the agriculture industry.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO