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



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 232

RECORD BY:

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 10817 OR THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION ACT OF 2016 WITH AN END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF HALAL IS NOT DISREGARDED IN MAKING HALAL EXPORTS MORE COMPETITIVE

WHEREAS, Halal trade in the Philippines is seen to have great potential for growth. A study conducted by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry showed that the global halal market is projected to grow to \$1.6 trillion by 2018;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10817 or the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016 aims to tap the potential contribution of halal industries to the country's economic development by making their exports more competitive through the establishment of a comprehensive program for the development and promotion of halal exports;

WHEREAS, the new law mandates the creation of the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board as the policy-making body in charge of the export development of halal. The Halal Board shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as Chairperson, the Secretary of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) as Vice Chairperson, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH), the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Chairperson of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), and two (2) Muslim Filipino professionals from the academe, law, industry, or food science who have experience in Halal industry development;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10817 mandates the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) to handle the accreditation of Halal certification bodies, inspection bodies, and testing and calibration laboratories. The law also empowers the PAB to formulate accreditation policies and guidelines that shall govern the accreditation of Halal certification bodies; and grant or deny accreditation of Halal certification bodies, and suspend or withdraw such accreditation in accordance with established policies and guidelines;

WHEREAS, under the new law, Philippine National Standards for Halal will be developed by the DA for primary and post-harvest foods; the DOH for processed and prepackaged foods, drugs and cosmetics; and, the DTI for nonfood products aside from drugs and cosmetics;

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 9997 or the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009, the NCMF is tasked to "promote and develop the Philippine Halal Industry and accredit halal-certifying entities/bodies for the utmost benefit of Muslim Filipinos and in partnership or cooperation with appropriate agencies, individuals and institutions here and abroad";

WHEREAS, while Republic Act No. 10817 seeks to make export of halal products more competitive, it is imperative that the declaration of food and non-food products as Halal must be based on full compliance with Shari'ah Law, principles, and standards as proven through scientific method, as provided under the 2016 NCMF Operations Manual;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the appropriate committee to look into the implementation of Republic Act No. 10817 or the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016 with an end in view of ensuring that the religious significance of Halal to Muslim Filipinos is not disregarded in the promotion and export of Philippine Halal products.

Adopted.

SONNY ANGARA