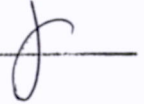


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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 717

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8172, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “ASIN LAW” AND ITS EFFECTS ON HEALTH AND THE LOCAL SALT INDUSTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN PROMOTING IODINE SUFFICIENCY AMONG OUR PEOPLE AND STRENGTHENING MECHANISMS TO ENHANCE LOCAL SALT PRODUCTION**

1           WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “[t]he  
2 State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and  
3 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that  
4 provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living,  
5 and an improved quality of life for all”;

6           WHEREAS, Section 15 of the same states that, “[t]he State shall protect and  
7 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among  
8 them”;

9           WHEREAS, Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8172, otherwise known as “An Act for  
10 Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)”, states, in part, the Act’s purpose to “contribute to  
11 the elimination of micronutrient malnutrition in the country, particularly iodine  
12 deficiency disorders, through the cost-effective preventive measure of salt iodization;  
13 require all producers and manufacturers of food-grade salt to iodize the salt that they  
14 produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute; and provide mechanisms and  
15 incentives for the local salt industry in the production, marketing and distribution of  
16 iodized salt”;

17           WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued FDA  
18 Memorandum Circular No. 2013-042 “to provide guidelines on salt iodization for salt

1 manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, repackers and distributors in order to ensure  
2 that all supplies of salt in the country that are offered for sale or for use by consumers  
3 are iodized” and to “guide the food inspectors in implementing both the quality and  
4 safety of salt iodization using hazard analysis and risk-based inspection”;

5 WHEREAS, in 1993, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United  
6 Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the International Council for the Control of  
7 Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) recommended universal iodization of salt to  
8 prevent and treat iodine deficiency disorders, and this recommendation remains  
9 today, according to a 2014 WHO report entitled “Effect and safety of salt iodization to  
10 prevent iodine deficiency disorders: a systematic review with meta-analyses”;

11 WHEREAS, on 13 April 2015, Rappler reported in an article entitled “20 years  
12 after: ASIN Law and its challenges” that the results of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Nutritional  
13 Survey (NNS) show that 8.9% of all children aged 6 to 12 years old in 2013 has Iodine  
14 Deficiency Disorder (IDD), which is lower than 2008’s 13.8%;

15 WHEREAS, the same report stated that after 20 years since its implementation,  
16 Dr. Amelia C Medina of the Department of Health-National Capital Region Disease  
17 Prevention and Control believes that is now the time for stakeholders to assess the  
18 program and point out the challenges it faces such as the monitoring of supply and  
19 distribution of adequately-iodized salt within Metro Manila, lack of established  
20 monitoring team in the many entry points of salt delivery, irregular supply of salt  
21 testing kits which hinders submission of local government unit (LGU) reports, rapid  
22 testing kit only detects the presence of iodine and not its quantity, industrial salt is  
23 being passed as salt for human consumption because industrial salts are not required  
24 to be iodized, and no monitoring from the regional level due to lack of manpower;

25 WHEREAS, on 25 January 2017, Business Mirror reported in an article entitled,  
26 “Chef: 80% of salt in PHL market industrial grade” that the proliferation of nonfood-  
27 grade salt impacts on the small makers of *bagoong* and *tinapa*, basically cottage  
28 industries still in the Philippines, as using industrial-grade salt in these food processes  
29 lowers the quality of these traditional food products, making them less palatable to  
30 consumers;

31 WHEREAS, the same article described salt-making as a dying and vanishing  
32 industry in the Philippines, with only a few commercial producers, while the rest are  
33 relegated to the likes of old women still boiling seawater until only the salt remains;

1           WHEREAS, on 28 May 2017, Business Mirror reported in an article entitled  
2 “Occidental Mindoro boosting salt industry through new tech” that Occidental  
3 Mindoro, once one of the biggest salt producers in the country and now only producing  
4 12% of the national salt requirement, is trying to reclaim its old glory through the  
5 Department of Science and Technology-Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and  
6 Palawan’s adoption of a new technology that will allow year-round production of salt  
7 even under erratic weather patterns;

8           WHEREAS, the same report stated that producers in provinces like Bulacan,  
9 Pangasinan, Occidental Mindoro and Cavite that could supply almost 85% of the  
10 country’s annual salt requirement in 1990 were forced to close down or convert their  
11 areas into other profitable ventures, which gravely contributed to the dwindling of  
12 local production to 20% and increased importation from Australia and China;

13           WHEREAS, there is a need to stress the importance of an aligned inter-agency  
14 approach in guaranteeing the efficient end to end, sustainable implementation of the  
15 ASIN law – from the provision of technical and financial assistance to local salt  
16 farmers, upgrading technologies to boost production and wean from importation,  
17 monitoring the compliance of salt producers to standards prescribed by the law,  
18 addressing the health issue of micronutrient deficiency, to finally ensuring consumer  
19 safety;

20           WHEREAS, the ASIN law being a 23-year-old measure, it is high time to  
21 conduct a probe that would determine the status of its implementation, in order to  
22 pose holistic solutions to the multifaceted challenges it has effected not only in further  
23 lowering the IDD rate, but also in preserving a culture and means of livelihood for local  
24 salt farmers;

25           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the  
26 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the  
27 implementation of Republic Act No. 8172, or “the ASIN Law” and its effects on health  
28 and the local salt industry, with the end in view of striking a balance between  
29 promoting iodine sufficiency and strengthening mechanisms to enhance local salt  
30 production.

Adopted,

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA