

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



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 167

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DELAY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11524, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY TRUST FUND ACT", WITH THE END GOAL OF DELIVERING THE BENEFITS IT HAS PROMISED

1 WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 21 of the 1987 Constitution states that "the
2 State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform";

3 WHEREAS, on February 26, 2021, RA 11524, otherwise known as the
4 "Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act" was enacted to consolidate the
5 benefits due to coconut farmers, especially the poor and marginalized, under various
6 statutes and to expedite the delivery thereof to attain increased incomes for coconut
7 farmers, alleviate poverty, and achieve social equality;

8 WHEREAS, it has been more than a year since it was passed and up until
9 today no concrete benefit has been received nor enjoyed by the coconut farmer
10 beneficiaries;

11 WHEREAS, Section 9 of RA 11524 provides that the utilization of the Trust
12 Fund or any portion thereof shall be in accordance with the Coconut Farmers and
13 Industry Development Plan (CFIDP);

1 WHEREAS, The CFIDP shall be prepared by the Philippine Coconut Authority
2 (PCA) and approved by the President of the Philippines;

3 WHEREAS, Sec. 9 also provides that for purpose of the implementation of the
4 Plan, for the execution of programs and projects identified in the Plan and that are
5 allowed to be funded out of the Trust Fund and subject to annual government audit,
6 an initial allocation of Five billion pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) shall be available to the
7 designated government agencies;

8 WHEREAS, RA 11524 further directed the Philippine Coconut Authority to
9 enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with various government agencies to
10 ensure a coordinated implementation of the programs under the Development Plan,
11 proper utilization of allocations provided and submission of periodic accomplishment
12 report;

13 WHEREAS, in January 25, 2022, the Office of the President, Governance
14 Commission (GCG) approved the creation of a Project Management Office (PMO)
15 under Memorandum Order 2022-01, creating twenty-nine (29) contractual positions
16 in the PCA under the Office of the Administrator and shall be funded entirely from
17 their Corporate Funds as approved by their Board of Trustees and once the Coconut
18 Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) has been approved;

19 WHEREAS, On June 2, 2022, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Executive
20 Order (EO) No. 172, or the CFIDP, to serve as basis in using the P75-billion coco
21 levy fund through various programs and projects;

22 WHEREAS, there are 3.5 million coconut farmers and about 25 million
23 Filipinos, who are directly and/or indirectly dependent on the coconut industry;

24 WHEREAS, our coconut farmers have been waiting too long to finally enjoy
25 the benefit from the Coco Levy Fund;

26 WHEREAS, it has been more than a year since the enactment of RA 11524 or
27 the Coconut Farmers and Industry Fund Act, and yet it is still not implemented;

28 WHEREAS, the CFIDP, should be map out according to the Coconut Farmers
29 Registry to allow proper targeting of beneficiaries. Targeting is critical to monitor

1 impact in terms of number of coconut farmers served, their location, the increase in
2 income, the improvement in production and the number of new business enterprises
3 created, scholars empowered, health benefits enjoyed, mechanization implemented,
4 coops and associations created and empowered, to determine the success rate of
5 the interventions implemented by the various Agencies in accordance with the law;

6 WHEREAS, the Coconut Farmers, workers and their families should not be
7 further abused by the long wait, they should get what is due them and not to be
8 taken advantage of once again. To emphasize, it has been more than a year since
9 the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food in a hearing directed the PCA, (June
10 10, 2021) to submit that updated list of coconut farmers and industry beneficiaries
11 under the law. The registry is crucial to the success of the law;

12 WHEREAS, up to this moment, the PCA has failed do the Registry nor even
13 activate the Program Management Office to execute Coco Farmers and Industry law
14 despite approval of the DBM for the creation of the same.

15 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate
16 direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform to conduct
17 an inquiry in aid of legislation, into the delay on the implementation of RA 11524,
18 otherwise known as the "Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act", and EO
19 172 to finally serve the beneficiaries it aims to serve.

Adopted,


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR