

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: P.S. Res. No. 175

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

RESOLUTION

**COMMENDING ROSALIE ELLASUS FOR PLACING THE PHILIPPINES IN
THE FOREFRONT IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT BY WINNING
THE KLECKNER TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT AWARD IN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, on 18 October 2007, Rosalie Ellasus made the Philippines proud by being named the first recipient of the Kleckner Trade and Technology Advancement Award given by the Truth About Trade and Technology (TATT) in city of Des Moines, Iowa;

WHEREAS, TATT is an organization committed to promoting free trade and agricultural biotechnology through farmer-led educational initiatives that target public officials, opinion leaders and the agricultural community;

WHEREAS, the Kleckner award recognizes a farmer involved in the agricultural production of food, feed, fiber and fuel;

WHEREAS, Ellasus, who was selected from a field of four farmer-finalists, received the award at a farmer-to-farmer roundtable sponsored by TATT in Des Moines;

WHEREAS, John Reifsteck, an Illinois farmer who serves on the TATT board, said the Filipino farmer-leader was selected because "she represents what TATT represents. It's a disservice to farmers like Rosalie to say that biotechnology and trade issues are only about large farmers; those issues affect all farmers.";

WHEREAS, once a domestic helper in Singapore and Canada, Ellasus worked her way to the upper rungs of life — as a market executive and new president of the PhilMaize Federation, which groups together corn farmers' organizations across the country;

WHEREAS, she is also currently a councilor in her town, San Jacinto, Pangasinan, having been elected to that position during the 14 May 2007 elections;

WHEREAS, Ellasus married early in life and after her husband died, she bought a 1.3-hectare farm with her savings. As a greenhorn farmer, she

discovered early that pests and weeds were taking toll on her cornfields and made her crops unsuitable for sale which resulted to so many rejections from buyers. The biggest problem with their corn was aflatoxin contamination. She added that insects drilled small holes in the corn, providing an environment for mites, diseases, and fungi that produce the toxin;

WHEREAS, confronted with these problems, Ellasus attended an Integrated Post Management-Farmers' Field School (IPM-FFS) on corn conducted in 2001 by the Department of Agriculture (DA). Subsequently, she began changing her farm practices, and after seeing a demonstration farm Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) field, she did a corn demonstration on her farm in San Jacinto to compare conventional and Bt corn;

WHEREAS, through genetic engineering (biotechnology) technique, a specific gene of Bt has been introduced into a corn variety. The Bt corn produces its natural pesticide against the Asian corn borer, one of the most destructive pests attacking corn in the Philippines and in other Asian countries. As a result, Ellasus' corn was well accepted by feed mills, she was also able to sell her corn husks for local craft production because they were flawless and sturdy;

WHEREAS, profits that were the result of technology allowed her to expand her 1.3-hectare farm to six hectares. Her success persuaded other farmers to also use the technology;

WHEREAS, Ellasus exemplifies strong leadership, vision, and resolve in advancing the right of all farmers to choose the technology and tools that will improve the quality, quantity, and availability of agricultural products around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to commend Rosalie Ellasus for winning the Kleckner Trade and Technology Advancement Award given by the Truth About Trade And Technology (TATT) in City Of Des Moines, Iowa and for making the Philippines proud.

Adopted.


MANNY VILLAR
Senator