

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

12 FEB -1 P3:52

SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 693

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE IMPORTATION OF MARINE PRODUCTS VIS-À-VIS THE REPORTED FLOODING OF IMPORTED "GALUNGGONG", "TULINGAN", "HASA-HASA," "TIMON-TIMON" AND OTHER VARIETIES OF FISHES, IN WET MARKETS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING THE LOCAL MARKET, THE FILIPINO FISHERMEN AND THE CONSUMING PUBLIC.

Whereas, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "[t]he State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

Whereas, under Republic Act (RA) 8550, otherwise known as "[t]he Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," it is a declared policy of the State:

"(a) to achieve food security as the overriding consideration in the utilization, management, development, conservation and protection of fishery resources in order to provide the food needs of the population. A flexible policy towards the attainment of food security shall be adopted in response to changes in demographic trends for fish, emerging trends in the trade of fish and other aquatic products in domestic and international markets, and the law of supply and demand"

xxx

(e) to provide support to the fishery sector, primarily to the municipal fisherfolk, including women and youth sectors, through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, construction of post-harvest facilities, marketing assistance, and other services. The protection of municipal fisherfolk against foreign intrusion shall extend to offshore fishing grounds. Fishworkers shall receive a just share for their labor in the utilization of marine and fishery resources;

Whereas, Sec. 61 Importation and Exportation of Fishery Products of RA 8550, further states that:

"(c) [f]ishery products may be imported only when the importation has been certified as necessary by the Department in consultation with the FARMC, and all the requirements of this Code, as well as all existing rules and regulations have been complied with: Provided, That fish imports for canning/processing

purposes only may be allowed without the necessary certification, but within the provisions of Section 61(d) of this Code; and

(d) No person, shall import and/or export fishery products of whatever size, stage or form for any purpose without securing a permit from the Department.”;

Whereas, the previously abundant galunggong or round scad in the Philippines, is now among the marine products the country is importing;

Whereas, in fact, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic resources (BFAR) reports that galunggong now mostly comes from either China or Taiwan;

Whereas, BFAR Director Perez revealed that the opening of the domestic market to imported fish was caused by the declining fish catch locally;

Whereas, news reports reveal that BFAR is even keen on formalizing the fish importation;

Whereas, according to BFAR, about 900,000 metric tons of imported fish enter the country every year where most of the imports are for institutional buyers who process seafood;

Whereas, however, reports would show that there is a rampant illegal importation of marine products in the country thereby flooding the local market;

Whereas, these imported fish, in fact, also enter the wet market, particularly “galunggong”, “tulingan” (frigate tuna or *Auxis thazard*), and “hasa-hasa” (short-bodied mackerel);

Whereas, recently, there was a report that 460 boxes of tulingan, timon-timon and squid were seized by BFAR in Naga City as the owner of the same failed to show the necessary licenses and/or permits for the said marine products;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the Committees on Trade and Commerce and Agriculture and Food, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the policy of the government with regard to the importation of marine products vis-à-vis the reported flooding of imported “galunggong”, “tulingan”, “hasa-hasa,” “timon-timon” and other varieties of fishes, in wet markets with the end in view of safeguarding and protecting the local market, the Filipino fishermen and the consuming public.

Adopted,


Manny Villar