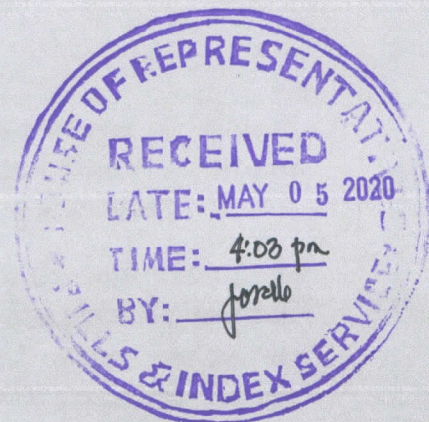




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 824

Introduced by **MAGSASAKA Party-List Representative**
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED BIRD FLU OUTBREAK IN MUNICIPALITY
OF JAEN, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE
GOVERNMENT TO CONTAIN THE DISEASE IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Department of Agriculture (DA) confirmed the first outbreak of H5N6 Avian Influenza also known as bird flu in the country this year. The confirmation was made after the release of laboratory results that caused 1,500 quail mortalities in a farm located in Barangay Ulanin-Pitek, Jaen, Nueva Ecija;

WHEREAS, the H5N6 Avian Influenza is a highly-pathogenic poultry disease that can affect humans and has caused the culling of 200,000 fowls in Pampanga in 2017;

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the poultry industry accounted for 14.72% of the total value of agriculture output, equivalent to P25.941 billion, in the third quarter of 2019;

WHEREAS, after the African Swine Fever (ASF) proliferation in the country, poultry meat became the alternative of the consuming public that caused for the

demand of these products to increase. However, with the threat of bird flu spread, the government must highly take into account immediate implementation of actions for poultry disinfection, consumer safety, and sufficient supply in the market;

WHEREAS, in accordance to existing laws and policies including the Food Safety Act of 2013 and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), the DA, together with Department of Health, Bureau of Customs, and other concerned agencies, must fully implement import guidelines including strict cargo inspection, clearance procedures, and quarantine to prevent entry of poultry-product imports from bird flu-affected countries which are suspected to be the source of outbreak in the country;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State to implement immediate and appropriate response to contain the bird flu virus and protect the poultry industry as a whole. Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Agriculture and Food of the House of Representatives conducts an immediate investigation, in aid of legislation, on the reported bird flu outbreak in the province of Nueva Ecija, and the preparedness of the government to contain the disease in the country.

Adopted,

CABATBAT

REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T.

MAGSASAKA Party-list