



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 705



---

**Introduced by Representative Christian S. Unabia**

---

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF QUARANTINE PROCEDURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE INSPECTION OF COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSES AND CONTAINER VANS WHICH ARE POSSIBLE SOURCES OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, according to the World Organization for Animal Health, African Swine Fever (ASF) is a severe viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs which can be spread by live or dead pigs, domestic or wild, and pork products, by way of contaminated feed and fomites (non-living objects) such as shoes, clothes, vehicles, knives or other equipment;

**WHEREAS**, in September 2019, the Department of Agriculture confirmed that the ASF had reached the country, specifically in the provinces of Bulacan and Rizal which was traced to have come from smuggled pork products from China; and also been reported in other provinces and cities in Luzon;

**WHEREAS**, on February 3, 2020, the whole Province of Davao Occidental was placed under a state of calamity, with up to 10,000 hogs affected by ASF in the towns of San Marcelino and Malita, the first recorded outbreak of ASF in Mindanao;

**WHEREAS**, reports of a suspected ASF case is also being monitored in the neighboring Province of Davao Del Sur;

**WHEREAS**, despite diligent efforts of the government to prevent the entry of ASF in the country by imposing a ban on the importation of pork and pork products from countries hit by the ASF, the ASF virus was still able to enter the country and its spread has not been contained in Luzon where it was originally detected and is now threatening the swine industry in Mindanao;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture and other concerned offices and agencies need to be more vigilant and come up with more stringent and stricter measures to control the spread and contain the ASF virus by implementing consistent and stricter inspection of all National Meat Inspection Service non-accredited private cold storage warehouses, including container vans and other possible carriers of the ASF virus at the ports of entry all over the country;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative to conduct a thorough investigation on the cause of the continued spread of ASF which has now affected Mindanao and to determine whether the current measures undertaken by the Department of Agriculture are sufficient or if other pieces of legislation are necessary to better equip the government in combatting the ASF virus outbreak in the country because the failure to control, contain and eventually eradicate the ASF will cause serious economic losses to the swine industry and will negatively affect our food security: Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, To direct the Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of quarantine procedures by the Department of Agriculture and the inspection of cold storage warehouses and container vans which are possible sources of the outbreak of the African Swine Fever in the country.

Adopted,

  
**CHRISTIAN S. UNABIA**