



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 852

Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-list Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEFEAT COVID-19 COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC ON PHILIPPINE
AGRICULTURE TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF FOOD SECURITY IN THE
COUNTRY POST THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**

1 **WHEREAS**, following the declaration of State of Public Health Emergency
2 through Proclamation No. 922, s. 2020, of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, a
3 Memorandum was issued by the Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea placing the
4 entire Luzon under an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and Stringent Social
5 Distancing Measures from 17 March 2020 to 13 April 2020;

6 **WHEREAS**, as the local government units in parts of Visayas and Mindanao
7 also implemented the same measures due to local transmission of the coronavirus
8 disease 2019 (COVID-19) in their respective provinces, the ECQ in Luzon was then
9 extended until 30 April 2020 because of the continuing rise in confirmed cases of the
10 disease infection;

11 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 112 adopted the Omnibus Guidelines on the
12 implementation of ECQ which was further extended from 01 May 2020 to 15 May
13 2020 in high-risk areas and the imposition of the General Community Quarantine
14 (GCQ) in the rest of the country;
15

1 **WHEREAS**, food security is “when all people, at all times, have physical,
2 social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their
3 dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”¹ as defined by the
4 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

5 **WHEREAS**, in response to the national health crisis brought about by the
6 COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Agriculture (DA) have issued 1) Special
7 Order 335, s.2020, creating the Food Resiliency Task Force to “ensure availability,
8 affordability, accessibility and safety of food supply”, and 2) Memorandum Circular
9 Nos. 7 and 9, s.2020, outlining the agency’s Food Resiliency Protocol implementing
10 guidelines to ensure unhampered movement of all products relating to food, food
11 production, and agribusiness personnel throughout the country;

12 **WHEREAS**, DA estimates that by the end of December 2020, the Philippines
13 is looking at a surplus of rice supply for 94 days, as well as in other food
14 commodities such as corn, vegetables, poultry, and fish will have excess supply
15 except for pork²;

16 **WHEREAS**, the effect of COVID-19 pandemic is greatly felt in the supply
17 chain, from the closure of some trading posts, difficulties encountered in
18 transporting goods and commodities despite the presentation of food passes and
19 proper documentation, closure of some vendors in *palengke* and *talipapa* as they
20 have been discovered to be a hotspot of the COVID-19 virus, farmers selling their
21 vegetable produce at injurious prices while some even resorting to giving away their
22 produce to avoid spoils due to rotting, and fisherfolks struggling to sell their seafood
23 catch because of a drop in tourists’ demand;

24 **WHEREAS**, the imposition of rice export ban of Vietnam to secure domestic
25 consumption pose a high risk on our future rice imports as well as the push in global
26 rice prices brought by the devastation of agriculture in Thailand caused by forest
27 fires and severe drought;

28 **WHEREAS**, the studies of experts which forecasts the likelihood of the
29 pandemic remaining at least 12 to 18 months in the absence of an effective vaccine
30 against COVID-19 puts an apparent threat to our food security in the coming months
31 post the implementation of community quarantine;

32 **WHEREAS**, the aforementioned factors contribute to the Philippines’ food
33 insecurity challenges as pointed out in the concerns expressed by President Duterte

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/y4671e/y4671e06.htm#fnB31> [Accessed: May 7, 2020]

² https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/28/da-says-commodities-will-end-with-surplus-by-dec-2020/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk_=c0b75ab2aebdb833ced57313e1fd5de76559e8d5-1588912442-0-Ad3_zXP4-jpfxh5ATYCfn8XbfmNGjKlpNBtlsvKkRNS9yFTJW1J5toz1RSQ6toLROGVicYywsvOrE3LG8qZoliF6lpvi4LDE2qavVx4kUDBLSGeJU12Q5H14SueM0aie7Elp9tuHhtXZm3WSEL-hKfXyIlZa02i2baQUHmf0hT5wvRhtTEEuEwOw65tMJnimZtRpiUo3W-upXGuleEu8NGgWGFUXEPGU3N_foSSD2xZUoyTLzcl8a_DAI0iOeceVTE5bikOmgyR4s4dQGL3u2TstZ8NGmdld12bRX8JjWOr5OLKnkTObq3OwSC61aarUCTQcJXyJzLEY1Q-84TH8ZiUN5OB0TIFHlv-nWnFFu5qN [Accessed: May 8, 2020]

1 during the ASEAN video summit in April 2020³, which are also reflected in the DA's
2 current battle cry of "The threat of hunger is as real as the threat of COVID-19,"
3 taken from Department Secretary William Dar's statement over our food security
4 status;

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
6 that the Defit COVID-19 Committee conducts an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
7 impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on Philippine agriculture
8 to determine the status of food security in the country post the implementation of
9 community quarantine.

Adopted,


ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-List

³ <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Coronavirus-exposes-ASEAN-divisions-on-rice-security>
[Accessed: May 7, 2020]