



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 506

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
POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF STRICTER IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES AND
OTHER ENFORCEABLE MEASURES ON FRESH, FROZEN, PROCESSED PORK PRODUCTS,
AND BY-PRODUCTS TO CONTAIN THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) VIRUS
IN THE COUNTRY

1 **WHEREAS**, Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that
2 the State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound
3 agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and
4 efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both
5 domestic and foreign markets;

6 **WHEREAS**, paragraphs (b) and (c), Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10611 known as
7 the Food Safety Act of 2013 provides that the state shall adopt objectives including
8 enhancement of industry and consumer confidence in the food regulatory system and
9 achievement of economic growth and development by promoting fair trade practices and
10 sound regulatory foundation for domestic and international trade;

11 **WHEREAS**, African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease that
12 affects pigs, warthogs, and boars with 100% fatality rate;

1 **WHEREAS**, prior to the ASF outbreak in the Philippines, the government in 2018
2 have already imposed a temporary import ban on pork products from ASF-affected
3 countries, which to date totaled 21 countries and a territory, namely China, Latvia,
4 Romania, Poland, Ukraine, Belgium, Hungary, Russia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Moldova,
5 South Africa, Zambia, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Serbia,
6 Myanmar, South Korea, and North Korea mainly to prevent the entry of the virus to the
7 country and protect the local hog industry;

8 **WHEREAS**, upon confiscation of 250 kilograms of pork products from Poland, an
9 ASF-affected country, which were mixed on German pork shipment, prohibition of food
10 waste importation and temporary suspension of system accreditation to all German meat
11 establishments was enforced;

12 **WHEREAS**, despite efforts to prevent the local hogs from contracting the disease,
13 the DA has confirmed on September 9, 2019 the first ASF outbreak in Bulacan and Rizal
14 through the blood samples tested in the United Kingdom which now poses a serious
15 threat to the local swine industry;

16 **WHEREAS**, to contain the spread of the virus, DA have implemented measures
17 including the 1-7-10 protocol in coordination with local government units (LGUs) and
18 other concerned agencies, while the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) and
19 Department of Health (DOH) have continuously assured the public that ASF is not
20 considered a threat to human health, but we can become carriers of the virus;

21 **WHEREAS**, as of today, cases of ASF have been confirmed in Quezon City, Rizal,
22 Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Malabon, and Caloocan which is
23 estimated to incur the local hog industry of Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000)
24 losses two months since the outbreak;

25 **WHEREAS**, on October 24, 2019, there had been a positive determination of ASF
26 in some tocino, longganisa, and hotdogs of Meken Food Corps. and unbranded home-
27 made processed items;

28 **WHEREAS**, the above incident prompted an adverse reaction from the Philippine
29 Association of Meat processors Inc. (PAMPI) where they called on their members to
30 suspend from buying local pork until they are assured by the government authorities of
31 being ASF-free;

32 **WHEREAS**, despite the numerous efforts to prevent further proliferation of the
33 disease, it has remained a challenge when, on October 2, 2019, the Bureau of Customs
34 (BOC) seized two containers of misdeclared pork and other meat products from China
35 worth Php 3.5B that were later confirmed to be contaminated with ASF;

1 **WHEREAS**, in accordance to existing laws and policies including the Food Safety
2 Act of 2013 and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), the DA, together with
3 DOH, BOC and other concerned agencies, must fully implement import guidelines
4 including stricter cargo inspection, clearance procedures, and quarantine to prevent
5 entry of pork product imports from ASF-affected countries and mitigate its smuggling and
6 illegal trade which are highly suspected to be the source of local proliferation of the virus;

7 **WHEREAS**, on top of existing requirements at hand, DA should compel pork
8 importers from non-ASF affected countries to secure a certification of being "ASF-free"
9 from a competent laboratory from their country of origin prior to port entry to fully assure
10 imported pork products are free of the virus;

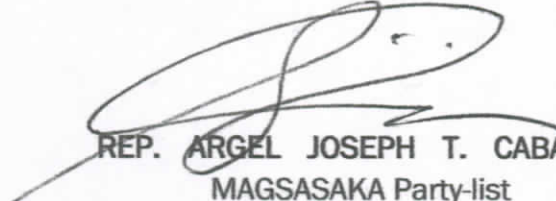
11 **WHEREAS**, if current measures were found to be insufficient to achieve full
12 containment of the virus, the government may be obliged to consider enforcing a
13 temporary moratorium of pork importation to all countries to avert further escalation of
14 the country's ASF situation;

15 **WHEREAS**, determination of the need for a moratorium must consider its
16 implications to our economy and the impact to the various industries and enterprises,
17 the employees and their families who are directly and indirectly dependent on imported
18 pork products;

19 **WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the government to take all necessary actions
20 to contain the ASF virus and protect the industry as a whole by strengthening its
21 coordination with other concerned agencies, meat processors, and hog raisers as well as
22 further educating the public on safe pork consumption; Now therefore, be it

23 **RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Agriculture and Food
24 of the House of Representatives conducts an immediate investigation, in aid of
25 legislation, on the possible imposition of stricter import requirements and guidelines and
26 other enforceable measures on fresh, frozen, processed pork products, and by-products
27 to contain the ASF virus in the country.

28 *Adopted,*


REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-list