



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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 326

Introduced by

Honorable DAVID "Jay-Jay" C. SUAREZ,
Honorable ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ and
Honorable ALETA C. SUAREZ

**A RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE OMINOUS DOWNWARD TREND OF THE PRICES OF COPRA**

WHEREAS, coconut remains to be one of the most important crops and a major export of the Philippines. However, despite the continued boom of coconut exports, there has been no significant improvement in the coconut industry for the past years;

WHEREAS, the total current number of coconut farmers is at 2, 513,457 as reported by the Philippine Coconut Authority;

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Monthly Report of the copra price trends shows that the average price of copra per kilogram at the mill gate last July 2018 is at Php 26.07, down to the current price of Php 25.72 as of June 2019. As to the farmgate price of copra, shows a fluctuation from Php 20.34 last July 2018 to Php 13.73 on the average as of June 2019. A decrease of Php 6.61 per kilogram;

WHEREAS, an investigation on this downward trend of copra prices is necessary to address the deterioration of the coconut industry, especially that it relates to generation of and for developmental programs, improvement of coconut farmer's income farm productivity;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has earlier called for the suspension of the importation of palm oil due to the continuous lowering of copra prices;

WHEREAS, the volume of palm oil importation has significantly increased in the past years by almost 100 percent compared to 2016. Most of the palm oil reportedly came from

Malaysia and Indonesia which enjoy tariff-free rates based on the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement;

WHEREAS, the surge of palm oil importation causes the shift of the demand from coconut oil to palm oil due to the cheaper price of the latter. This, in turn, injures the coconut industry with the continuous falling of copra farmgate prices to compete with the price of palm oil and the concurrent oversupply of copra;

WHEREAS, concerned government agencies should look into this issue and consider reevaluating the importation of palm oil for a more equitable playing field for domestic coconut producers.

THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved that the House of Representatives through the appropriate committees to conduct an investigation into the alarming falling prices of copra and to come up with recommended remedial legislation to address the problem.

Adopted,



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ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
ALONA Partylist



ALETA C. SUAREZ
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