

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Resolution No. 108



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP and PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINUED SMUGGLING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INTO THE COUNTRY DESPITE EXISTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, Article XII Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the goal of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth, a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people, and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged;

WHEREAS, the same provision stipulates that the State shall protect Filipino enterprises against foreign competition and trade practices;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10845, also known as the "Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016," provides that the crime of agricultural smuggling is considered as economic sabotage, involving sugar, corn, pork, poultry, garlic, onion, carrots, fish, and cruciferous vegetables in its raw state, or which have undergone the simple processes of preparation or preservation for the market, with a minimum amount of one million pesos (P1,000,000.00), or rice, with a minimum amount of ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00), as valued by the Bureau of Customs (BOC);

WHEREAS, the DA estimates smuggled agri-fisheries goods at P667.5 million between 2019 and 2022, of which P10 million was apprehended in 2019 and 2020, while the BOC also conducted 542 seizure cases involving P1.99 billion worth of agricultural products since 2019¹;

WHEREAS, in September 2021², a task force consisting of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) was formed to investigate the sudden proliferation of smuggled vegetables in the local market;

¹ Department of Agriculture, 2022: From Business World: Food Regulator Proposed to Tackle Agri Smuggling. (<https://www.da.gov.ph/from-business-world-food-regulator-proposed-to-tackle-agri-smuggling/>).
² Manila Bulletin, 2021: Task Force to Probe Smuggled Carrots in Divisoria, Manila. (<https://mb.com.ph/2021/09/27/task-force-to-probe-smuggled-carrots-in-divisoria/>).

WHEREAS, in November 2021³, the BOC raided a warehouse in Catmon, Malabon that resulted in the seizure of approximately P4.72 million worth of smuggled agricultural products such as, broccoli, carrots, and red onions;

WHEREAS, in April 2022⁴, one hundred (100) kilograms of imported carrots from China and ninety (90) kilograms of imported ginger being sold in Divisoria and Tondo in Manila were confiscated by the BOC;

WHEREAS, in June 2022⁵, shipments of Danury Consumer Goods Trading and Jeroce Consumer Goods were seized at the Manila International Container Port after detecting misdeclared goods including P75 million worth of frozen duck and chicken parts and to P49 million worth of pork and poultry products, respectively;

WHEREAS, the smuggling of agricultural products has been causing price distortion in the produce of Filipino farmers and defeats the efforts to increase farm production;

WHEREAS, Benguet vegetable traders⁶ said that this practice of vegetable smuggling from China has been going on since 2007;

WHEREAS, in June 2022⁷, the Senate Committee of the Whole report showing a list of individuals, including several Customs and Agriculture officials allegedly involved in agricultural smuggling, has been submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman;

WHEREAS, following the report, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. issued a warning⁸ that the government will go after individuals involved in agricultural smuggling;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the concerned agencies to ensure that the cases being filed against identified consignees of the smuggled agricultural crops are air tight to qualify as economic sabotage for them to face the consequences of their illegal activities that tend to impact on the established sources of livelihood of our farmers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to direct the House Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the continued smuggling of agricultural products into the country despite existing laws and regulations.

Adopted,



ERIC G. YAP



PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

³ Manila Bulletin, 2021: BOC Seizes P4.72M Worth of Smuggled Agricultural Products in Malabon. (<https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/14/boe-seizes-p4-72m-worth-of-smuggled-agricultural-products-in-malabon/>).

⁴ Inquirer.net, 2022: Authorities Seize Smuggled Carrots, Ginger in Manila. (<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1586198/authorities-seize-smuggled-carrots-ginger-in-manila>).

⁵ Inquirer.net, 2022: Smuggling Still Lucrative: BOC Foils Entry of P124-M Agri Goods. (<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1616955/smuggling-still-lucrative-boc-foils-entry-of-p124-m-agri-goods>).

⁶ Manila Bulletin, 2021: Smuggling of Carrots, Onions Has Been Going On For Years - Farmers. (<https://mb.com.ph/2021/10/01/smuggling-of-carrots-onions-has-been-going-on-for-years-farmers/>).

⁷ GMA News Online, 2022: Sotto: List of Alleged Agri Smugglers, Protectors Submitted to Ombudsman. (<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/836455/sotto-list-of-alleged-agri-smugglers-protectors-submitted-to-ombudsman/story/>).

⁸ GMA News Online, 2022: Marcos Warns Those Involved in Agri Smuggling. (<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/836535/marcos-warns-vs-agri-smuggling/story/>).