Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session  
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1504

Introduced by Representative RICO B. GERON

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO EXERCISE ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPLAIN AND SUBMIT A REPORT OF ALL PROGRAMS AND MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE DA'S IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS TO ADDRESS PRICE INSTABILITY.

WHEREAS, the Philippines was severely and adversely affected when Typhoons Quinta, Rolly and Ulysses hit Luzon during the last quarter of the year 2020.

WHEREAS, it was reported that the estimated damage amounting to P12.3 Billion based on the latest data issued by the Department of Agriculture.

WHEREAS, the government started the implementation of a price freeze on selected food items as the President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Presidential Proclamation No. 1051 to put the entire island of Luzon under a state of calamity.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7851 or The Price Act, as amended, provides protection to consumers by stabilizing the prices of basic necessities and prime commodities and prescribed measures against undue price increases during emergency situation and like occasions.

WHEREAS, Section 10 of RA 7581 states that, Section 10. Powers and Responsibilities of Implementing Agencies. – To carry out the intents and purposes of this Act, the head of the implementing agency shall have the following additional powers and responsibilities:

1. He shall, with the approval of the President, promulgate rules, regulations, and procedure for the implementation of this Act;
2. He shall develop, promulgate and implemental programs, projects or measures to promote productivity in all basic necessities and prime commodities under his agency's jurisdiction;
3. He shall promote and facilitate the establishment of an effective procurement, storage, marketing and distribution system of basic necessities and prime commodities to ensure their availability in all areas of the country where they are needed;
WHEREAS, SEC. 12. Functions of the Price Coordinating Council provides—

"x x x

“(2) It shall report at least semi-annually to the President and to the Congress of the Philippines the status and progress of the programs, projects, and measures undertaken by each implementing department, agency or office as well as the comprehensive strategies developed by the Council to stabilize the prices of basic necessities and prime commodities. The report shall include goods that have been included or excluded from the list of basic necessities and prime commodities as provided for under Section 4 of this Act;

WHEREAS, the imposition of price freeze could also be applied during other declaration of state of calamity brought by outbreaks like African Swine Fever and Bird Flu.

WHEREAS, price freeze directly affects farmers. It can be observed that the farmers shoulder the losses as traders decrease the buying price to maintain their profit margin. It keeps prices artificially low, demand is increased to the point where supply cannot keep up leading to shortages in the price freeze products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, directing the Committee on Agriculture and Food in exercise of its oversight function to urge the Department of Agriculture to explain and submit a report of all programs and measures undertaken by the its implementing departments to address price instability.

Adopted,

Rico B. Geron