Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

18th CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Resolution No. 2125

Introduced by Representative ELISA “OLGA” T. KHO, M.D., FCCP

A RESOLUTION
ENJOINING THE EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE UNITED NATION’S INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR RURAL WOMEN EVERY 15TH OF OCTOBER ANNUALLY

WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) established on October 15, 2008 the First International Day of Rural Women recognizing “the critical role of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.”

WHEREAS, the intent of honoring rural women with a special day was put forward at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995, on October 15 which is the eve of the World Food Day to highlight the role of rural women in food production and food security.

WHEREAS, UN Women recognizes and supports the leadership and participation of rural women in shaping laws, policies and programs on all issues that affect their lives, including improved food and nutrition security, and better rural livelihoods (www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-fous/rural women day/2013);

WHEREAS, UN Women further recognizes the key role of rural women in food production, and form a large proportion of the agricultural work force globally;

WHEREAS, UN Food Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that if women farmers, about 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries had the same access as men, agricultural output in 34 developing countries would rise by an estimated average of up to 4%, which could reduce the number of undernourished people in those countries by as much as 17%, translating to up to 150 million fewer hungry people;
WHEREAS, in a joint international event to observe International Women’s Day event last March 8, 2021, the UN FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) focused global attention on the crucial role that empowered female farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders need to play so that women can contribute on equal terms to the recovery from the Corona Virus Disease (COVID)-19 pandemic, and in creating an environment to eliminate poverty, enhance productivity, and improve food security and nutrition” (https://reliefweb.int/report/world/empowering-women-and-girls-to-ensure-sustainable-food-security);

WHEREAS, Proclamation 115 signed by former President Fidel V. Ramos “Declaring October 15, 1997 and of Every Year Thereafter as National Rural Women’s Day” recognizing the tremendous role of rural women in the country’s economic development and food security;

WHEREAS, 24 years after the aforementioned proclamation, there is a need to prepare a road map to highlight the compelling narratives of the courage, sacrifices, and perseverance of rural women to raise their families, face challenges as community workers, and how the national government can respond and address concerns and issues, and other challenges of rural women;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality, to review existing programs and projects of appropriate national government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture (DA)’s Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)’s Small Business Corporation (SBC), Incorporated, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), among others that will help rural women in the remotest barrios, and geographically isolated communities, recover and rebuild their lives, which were severely affected by the pandemic.

Adopted,

REP. ELISA “Olga” T. Kho, M.D., FCCP