

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 771



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**,

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD IMPACT AND EXTENT OF DAMAGES OF THE PROLONGED AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) OUTBREAK IN THE PHILIPPINES TO CREATE MORE PROACTIVE MEASURES AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO THE PROBLEM

WHEREAS, news reports indicate that there are still around 26 municipalities, 17 provinces and 9 regions in the country are still affected by African Swine Fever (ASF), with new outbreaks reported every now and then;

WHEREAS, ASF is a highly contagious, deadly disease devastating pork industries around the globe;

WHEREAS, ASF has existed for more than a century, first described in 1921 in Kenya and spread in several sub-Saharan African countries but remained on the African Continent until 1957;

WHEREAS, ASF reached Europe in 1957 when it was detected in a Portugal pig farm outbreak;

WHEREAS, ASF remained in Europe for many decades and was not detected in Asia until August 2018;

WHEREAS, the spread of ASF in China was more rapid compared to other regions and affected over a dozen other Asian countries;

WHEREAS, ASF finally reached the Philippines in 2019, with seven reported outbreaks in Rizal and Region IV-A, has since negatively and widely impacted the nation;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the Philippines is the world's tenth-largest consumer, eighth-top producer and seventh-largest importer of pork;

WHEREAS, the pork industry in the Philippines is estimated to be around PhP 143 Trillion with almost 120,000 farms affected around the country;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government resorted to several preventive measures that include massive information dissemination campaign, confiscation of pork products from countries infected with ASF, reporting system for ASF symptoms and suspicions, implementation of

quarantine and disinfection mechanisms and constant monitoring of slaughterhouses and markets;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) created regulations guaranteeing free, government-issued crop insurance, initially offering PHP 10,000 per pig killed by ASF, provided that farmers and producers are listed in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture;

WHEREAS, zoning plans have been in place since 2020, with only certain areas of the country can trade with the rest of the country;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 124 was issued to employ price capping in February 2021 to mitigate chicken and pork prices, which rose 50-275% from January 2020 to January 2021;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 133 was issued to raise the minimum access volume (MAV) for pork imports to 254,210 MT from 54,210 MT to address the supply shortage, while Executive Order 134 set the tariffs on pork imports under MAV to 10 percent for the first three months and 15 percent in the next nine months;

WHEREAS, despite the numerous policy measures, the total swine population dropped 50%, or 6.6 million heads, from 13 million heads pre-ASF, in 2021;

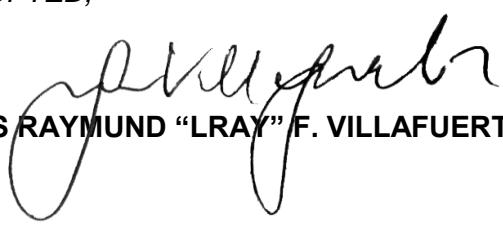
WHEREAS, a quarterly report from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that total pork production declined 23.4% from January to October 2021 compared to the same period in 2020, and 17% by year-end;

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the government, as the disease spread throughout the Philippines from 2019 to 2021, the area lost nearly USD 20 million a month as explained by Noel Reyes, spokesman for the Department of Agriculture (Reuters 2020);

WHEREAS, the current policies has resulted in rising costs to cover insurances as well as trade distortions due to reduced tariff rates of imported pork;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the socio-economic and livelihood impact and extent of damages of the prolonged African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak in the Philippines to create more proactive measures and effective responses to the problem.

ADOPTED,


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.