

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 772



---

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

---

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO PRIORITIZE THE ACQUISITION OF VACCINES TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**WHEREAS**, pork is an important meat in the Philippines as evidenced by our local cuisine that features the Filipino's creative use of a pig's face in sisig, the famous lechon, crispy pata and liempo, among others;

**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 announcement of the African Swine Fever (ASF) reaching the Philippines in 2019, with seven reported outbreaks in Rizal and Region IV-A, has since negatively and widely impacted the socio-economic conditions of the Filipinos, from farmers to consumers;

**WHEREAS**, it was in 2021 when the country started to feel the draining effects of the hog infection in a massive way when the total swine population dropped 50%, or 6.6 million heads, from 13 million heads pre-ASF as of June (Acosta 2021) though the Department of Agriculture had confirmed the outbreak of ASF in the country in the middle of 2019;

**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**, the loss of pork production in small backyard holdings, which accounts for 72.1% of the total swine population, has ensured the incapacitation of families who rely primarily on pork for both their livelihood and nutrition;

**WHEREAS**, the north and south regions of Luzon showed a 16% and 12% reduction, respectively, in farmgate prices, immediately post infection, with October 2019 price at 2% lower than cost of production;

**WHEREAS**, in January 2021, pork was priced at PHP 400 per kilogram, a 60% increase from its PHP 250 per kilogram price six months ago, and is also nearly equal to the minimum daily wage in Metro Manila, which is at PHP 537;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine government responded with policy actions in the form of insurance subsidies and zoning regulation to control the spread of the disease;

**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;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a more aggressive response to ASF such as the procurement and implementation of vaccines that have already been developed for safe and effective use in Vietnam and is being studied in other countries;

**WHEREAS**, the ASF vaccine is projected to reinvigorate and sustain local and international market for quality pork and pork products, lower local pork prices and avoid further loss of livelihood;

**WHEREAS**, border patrol and insurance costs can be allocated to more sustainable and higher-yielding programs and policy initiatives;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Budget and Management to prioritize the acquisition of vaccines to address the ongoing African Swine Fever (ASF) crisis in the Philippines.

ADOPTED,

  
LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.