Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

House Resolution No. 1213  

Introduced by HON. JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES  

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINUED IMPORTATION OF CORN SUBSTITUTE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE PRICE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR CORN PRODUCTS THAT IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE PLIGHT OF THE LOCAL CORN FARMERS  

WHEREAS, the Magna Carta for Small Farmers or RA 7607 was enacted on June 4, 1992 for the principal reason of giving highest priority to the development of agriculture such that the equitable distribution of benefits and opportunities is realized through the empowerment of small farmers.  

WHEREAS, Section 25 of RA 7607 recognizes the need to establish a price support system for certain agricultural products, especially rice and corn, taking into consideration the need to increase the real income of small farmers: Provided, that the price support established shall not result in the increase of the retail prices of such products beyond the paying capacity of the average consumer.  

WHEREAS, the same Section 25 of the same law mandates the government to minimize the importation of farm inputs which are being developed locally, such as fertilizers and seeds, except in times of calamites or emergencies.  

WHEREAS, contrary to the mandate of RA 7607, the government has continued to allow the importation of corn substitutes which compete in demand with locally produced corn.  

WHEREAS, to make matters worse, the importation of such corn substitutes coincide with the harvest season of corn which saturates the market and contribute to the substantial lowering of the farm gate prices of locally produced corn.
WHEREAS, Section 27 of RA 7607 also requires the National Food Authority (NFA) to only procure and purchase palay, corn and other agricultural produce directly from small farmers or farmer’s organizations. This is to ensure the implementation of the price support system for small farmers and to stabilize the cost of farm gate prices.

WHEREAS, again contrary to the mandate of the law, the National Food Authority has been reneging on its mandate to procure only locally produced corn from small farmers either by either not buying enough or altogether allowing the importation of corn substitutes. Again, the situation is untenable for the small farmers of corn who need to be protected under the spirit of RA 7607.

WHEREAS, it is apparent that our agricultural economic planners had become insensitive to the plight of small corn and rice farmers.

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure the effective implementation of certain provisions of RA 7607 in order to give effect to the spirit of the law insofar as uplifting the living conditions of small farmers.

WHEREAS, there is a need to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the continued importation of corn substitutes and the government’s failure to implement an effective price support system for local corn and rice products.

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Agriculture conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the continued importation of corn substitutes and the government’s failure to implement an effective price support system for local corn products to the detriment of our local small corn farmers.

Adopted,

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