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OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1526

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON CURBING THE EMISSION OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS
METHANE IN THE COUNTRY'S RICE FIELDS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 mandates: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, the Associated Free Press, through various media channels on 5 December 2009, reported that experts from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) pointed out rice paddies as sources of methane which contributes to one-fifths of all greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the experts said that while carbon dioxide is the most popular of the gases that cause global warming, methane is at least 20 times more effective at trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere;

WHEREAS, it is said that about 10 percent of the methane comes from rice farming, while other sources include cow flatulence and decomposing landfill garbage dumps;

WHEREAS, while there are existing measures in curbing greenhouse gas emissions in the country, the IRRI experts said that agricultural workers, particularly rice farmers, should not be subject to similar sanctions as industries that involve the use and consumption of fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, IRRI officials said that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from rice fields would require the implementation of smarter and more efficient farming strategies, like the strategic and conservative use of water; and increasing the efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers;

WHEREAS, the experts from IRRI said that an initiative or project is yet to be drawn up to educate farmers in the reduction of greenhouse emissions from rice paddies, especially as they expect the subject to be a virtual non-issue in the climate change summit in Copenhagen this December;

WHEREAS, the Philippines relies heavily on its agricultural sector, particularly the production of rice, and the government therefore needs to strike a balance between maximizing the production of this basic commodity while fulfilling its responsibility in protecting the environment on the aspect of minimizing greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the country's reliance on this industry and commodity prompts the government to come up and implement programs that would address issues that impact the country's rice production;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on curbing the emission of the greenhouse gas methane in the country's rice fields.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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