

13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Republic)  
of the Philippines )  
First Regular Session )

5 APR 13 A8 51

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Resolution No. 232

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.

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### Resolution

#### **Directing The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food To Conduct An Investigation, In Aid of Legislation, Into the Alleged Controversy Involving the P8.4 Billion Agusan Valley Coconut Project in Caraga, Funded by the Coconut Levy Assets, and to Institute Measures to Protect the Coconut Industry and Farmers-Workers Sector**

*Whereas*, there is an P8.4 Billion coconut development project in Agusan Valley in Caraga Region, Mindanao, to be funded by the coconut levy assets, which is supposedly intended to benefit the coconut industry and farmers-workers;

Whereas, this Agusan coconut project is intended to produce high-yielding coconut seedlings for distribution to various provinces;

*Whereas*, Philippine Coconut Administration (PCA) Administrator Evangeline Valbuena is vigorously opposing this coconut project on the ground that the Agusan property is meant for agro-forestry, and the project's implementation is not in accordance with the approved use of coconut levy fund;

*Whereas*, Administrator Valbuena said that this Agusan project is poorly conceived and is disadvantageous to coconut farmers and the Government;

*Whereas*, Administrator Valbuena is proposing that the P 8.4 billion coconut levy assets should instead be allocated for simultaneous implementation of several coconut development projects to be implemented in major coconut producing provinces at an average of P50 million per province;

*Whereas*, because of alleged compulsion to implement the Agusan Valley coconut project, Administrator Valbuena now finds herself under tremendous pressure to resign;

*Whereas*, there is an urgent need to look into the Agusan Valley project in the light of the enormous problems besetting the coconut industry, and the compelling necessity of rehabilitating this industry;

Whereas, there is likewise a pressing need to scrutinize the utilization of the coconut levy assets, particularly those invested in the San Miguel Corporation shares of stocks which have been unfrozen by the recent Sandiganbayan ruling.

**Now therefore, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the alleged controversy involving the P8.4 Billion Agusan Valley Coconut Project in Caraga, funded by the Coconut Levy Assets, and to Institute Measures to Protect the Coconut Industry and Farmers-Workers Sector**

Adopted,



**AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.**