



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Joint Res. No. 25

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

JOINT RESOLUTION
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF GUIDELINES ON THE ERADICATION AND PREVENTION OF OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND OTHER POTENTIAL TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects, pigs, warthogs, and boars, which causes high fever, losing of appetite, hemorrhages in the skin and internal organs of these animals;

WHEREAS, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reported that ASF has caused world meat production to slump for the first time in 20 years, and has affected countries such as China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste¹;

WHEREAS, pork typically contributes more than a third of worldwide meat output, and the spread of ASF across open-pig-farming-reliant East and Southeast Asia is threatening the food security and livelihoods in the region, with world meat production being forecasted at around 335 million tons in 2019, or one percent lower than in 2018²;

WHEREAS, the latest report of our government to the World Organization for Animal Health showed that there has been a total of 24 ASF outbreaks in the country and 555 actual ASF cases reported in the provinces of Rizal, Bulacan, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija and Cavite as well as Quezon City, with new cases found in Caloocan City and Malabon City³;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Duterte approved the release of PHP78-million emergency fund last September to support the biosecurity and quarantine operations, disease monitoring and surveillance, upgrading of laboratories, capacity-building, and other disease control measures against ASF, and along with this, a National ASF Task Force was created to flesh out inter-agency coordination, in partnership with concerned local government units (LGUs) and the private sector;

¹ *ASF situation in Asia update*. Animal Production and Health. Data retrieved from http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ASF/situation_update.html on 28 November 2019.

² *ASF causes drop in world meat production*. Data retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/11/11/1967777/asf-causes-drop-world-meat-production> on 27 November 2019.

³ *PRRD okays use of OP contingent fund vs. ASF*. Philippine News Agency. Data retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1085298> on 27 November 2019.

WHEREAS, ASF has led to the death and culling of nearly 70,000 hogs nationwide, which has led to the hog industry losing revenue amounting to an estimated PHP10 billion two months after the emergence of ASF in the country, as confirmed by the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura in November 2019⁴;

WHEREAS, the economy of the Philippines is first and foremost agriculture-based, hence, there is a need for programs and measures to ensure that the livelihood of citizens which are primarily based on agriculture and animal rearing are protected and free from economic vulnerabilities brought by both man-made and natural diseases;

WHEREAS, an approach based on collective effort of both the government and persons engaged in hog raising to effectively and expeditiously eradicate ASF must be put forward, hence, a need to provide a firm and clear-cut national guidelines and procedures to be undertaken by both relevant government agencies and instrumentalities, LGUs, as well as to those whose nature of business and source of livelihood are based on animal rearing, once an outbreak of ASF or other transboundary animal disease is identified;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Philippines and House of Representatives in Congress jointly mandate the provision of guidelines on the eradication and prevention of outbreak of African Swine Fever and other potential transboundary animal diseases in the country.

Adopted,



REP. VICTOR A. YAP
Second District, Tarlac

⁴ *PRRD okays use of OP contingent fund vs. ASF*. Philippine News Agency. Data retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1085298> on 27 November 2019.