

2nd CONGRESSIONAL HEARING BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

Wednesday, 22 February 2017

Last Updated Friday, 24 February 2017

At the Speaker Yñiguez Hall of the South Wing Annex of the House of Rep., PAGASA was invited in the morning of 22 Feb. 2017 as a resource in the deliberations on the proposal for the creation of a Food Security Council. Chaired by (L-R) Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva/Neg. Occ., Vice Chairman Rep. Gil Acosta/Palawan assisted in the hearing with Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD. 1-PACMAN, Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr./Camsur, Rep. Jorge Bolet Banal/QC and Rep. Randolph S. Ting/Cagayan. Also present were Rep. Kaka J. Bag-Ao/Dinagat Islands and the representatives from DA, DAR, LBP, Government Statistics Agencies and the different Nutrition Agencies under DOH. PAGASA was the lone representative from the private sector at this Hearing. STC stated that in behalf of the private sector, PAGASA felt there was no need to create a Council on Food Security given that the objective was to oversee the funding and supply of food/nutrition of the poor citizens of this country. STC agreed with the opinion of DAR that the bills proposed in this Committee had more to do with feeding than food security; thus, the need to change the name of the proposed Council. Though noble in purpose, the bills aimed to help solve malnutrition by supplying children from poor families with produce coming from small farmers/fisherfolk and this, STC found as a bit too ambitious given logistical/distribution problems especially since produce have such short consumable/edible life. Instead, STC proposed that a Consultative/Coordinative Council be set up for this purpose but to leave the sourcing to LGUs and the distribution/execution of the feeding to NGOs.

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