

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Fourteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 130

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE DEMEANING PORTRAYAL OF FILIPINA MIGRANT WORKERS IN A BRITISH BROADCASTING COMPANY (BBC) COMEDY PROGRAM WHICH HAS TARNISHED THE IMAGE OF FILIPINOS ABROAD

WHEREAS, based on the data released by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in 2007, the United Kingdom is one of the top destinations of Filipino migrant workers with 9,525 Filipino workers deployed there;

WHEREAS, according to the statement released by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) dated 22 November 2007, both the ASEAN countries and the members of the European Union agreed to identify ways that would protect the rights and promote the welfare of migrant workers;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8402, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers Act of 1995, stresses that the Filipino migrant workers should only be deployed in areas where their rights as human beings are assured, to wit:

“SEC. 4. *Deployment of Migrant Workers.* – The State shall deploy overseas Filipino workers only in countries where the rights of Filipino migrant workers are protected. The government recognizes any of the following as guarantee on the part of the receiving country for the protection and the rights of overseas Filipino workers.”;

WHEREAS, in a skit entitled “Mating with the Filipino Maid” of the BBC television program *Harry and Paul*, a Filipina migrant worker is shown wearing a grey househelp uniform and a white apron while dancing sensually and circling around a male character as another character continuously instructs her to dance and reprimands her once she declined to follow his commands;

WHEREAS, the actions and the dialogue of the characters in the said BBC program are discriminating and demeaning to the overall situation of Filipino migrant workers;

WHEREAS, the portrayal of Filipino migrant workers, restricted to being domestic helpers who are susceptible to the abuse of their foreign employers, in the BBC program *Harry and Paul* reflects the possible predicament of many migrant Filipino workers in the United Kingdom;

WHEREAS, the unconstructive stereotype of migrant Filipino workers presented in the abovementioned BBC program degrades not only the image of Filipino migrant workers but also the overall perception of Filipinos abroad;

WHEREAS, it is alarming not only to Filipina migrant workers but to Filipinos in general that Filipino women are perceived as objects of sexual ridicule and laughter in foreign countries like the United Kingdom;


WHEREAS, the humiliating depiction of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the abovementioned BBC program has brought emotional stress not only to Filipino migrant workers but to their families as well;

WHEREAS, the protection of migrant workers should not only be confined to forms of physical abuse but also emotional abuse such as public humiliation and verbal harassment;

WHEREAS, this was not the first time that there was a paucity in significant government intervention in an event that subjects Filipino migrant workers to the ridicule of foreign media, it first occurred in the American television series, *Desperate Housewives*, where one character belittled the capacity of Filipino doctors in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

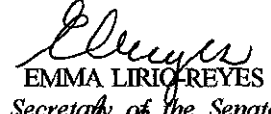
Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, To express the sense of the Senate to condemn the demeaning portrayal of Filipina migrant workers in a British Broadcasting Company (BBC) comedy program which has tarnished the image of Filipinos abroad.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on October 8, 2008.



EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate

