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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session)) 5 FEB -2 P4:36)
SENATE	RECEIVED BY :
P.S. Resolution No	67.

RESOLUTION

ENTERING INTO THE SENATE RECORDS THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE BLAS F. OPLE TO THE COUNTRY AS "FATHER OF OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT" AND AUTHOR OF THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Philippine overseas employment program began in 1974 during the administration of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos when his longest serving Labor Minister, Blas Fajardo Ople, successfully negotiated a labor agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries for Filipinos to work in their oil fields and construction sites;

WHEREAS, the social infrastructure to ensure the protection of Filipino workers abroad were largely the brainchild of Blas F. Ople when as Labor Secretary, he spearheaded the creation of agencies that later evolved into the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration and Commission on Filipino Overseas;

WHEREAS, records of the Department of Labor and Employment would show that in 1980, there was an estimated 1.7 million Overseas Filipino Workers in 107 countries of the world; this number has now grown to 7-8 million stretched across the globe thus, the phenomenon of a Filipino Diaspora;

WHEREAS, during the early 70's, the world was reeling from a severe oil shock and our local economy was at a tailspin; then and even now, it was the overseas employment program that saved the day for the Philippine economy as thousands of Filipino sought greener pastures abroad;

WHEREAS, this humble representation, having served in the same administration as our departed colleague, Blas F. Ople, deems it vital to record in the annals of history through this humble resolution, the invaluable contributions and historic role played by this poor writer and genius son of Hagonoy in shaping the destinies of millions of Filipino overseas workers through the overseas employment program;

WHEREAS, it is now incumbent upon the present administration and those that would precede it, to strengthen the economy so that the Philippines can now slowly transit from being a source of foreign labor to that of a labor-receiving country;

WHEREAS, the burden of economic stability must not rest solely on the weary shoulders of our homesick overseas Filipino workers but must rightfully and properly be borne by the well-to-do members of our society who shirk from their duties and obligations to pay the right taxes;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the records of the Philippine Senate affirm and attest through this humble resolution the invaluable legacy left behind by the former Secretary of Labor and Foreign Affairs and legislator in his capacity as "Father of Overseas Employment";

RESOLVED, further, that the Philippine Senate directs the National Historical Institute, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and Department of Labor and Employment to ensure that the enormous contributions of Blas Fajardo Ople as the acknowledged "Father of Overseas Employment" shall find its rightful place in Philippine history.

Adopted,

JUAN PONCE ENRILE Senator