

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
Republic of the Philippines)
Second Regular Session)

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SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 990

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MASSIVE RECRUITMENT SCAM COMMITTED BY CYM INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, A LICENSED RECRUITMENT AGENCY, THAT LED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF 137 FILIPINO BUS DRIVERS TO NON-EXISTENT JOBS IN DUBAI AND PENDING LOANS OBTAINED UNDER ONEROUS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to protect the rights of workers, local and overseas, and promote their welfare as labor is the State's primary social economic force;

WHEREAS, the State, through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) regulates the private sector participation in the recruitment and overseas placement of workers through its licensing and registration system to ensure the humane working conditions and the protection of the rights of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);

WHEREAS, the CYM International Services is a licensed recruitment agency which has been in existence since 1983;

WHEREAS, from January to March 2009, CYM International Services in partnership with its counterpart agency in Dubai known as Al Toomoh, deployed 137 Filipinos to work as bus drivers of the Road and Transport Authority (RTA);

WHEREAS, each recruit was charged a placement fee amounting to One Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Pesos (P153,000.00) for jobs that would pay them a monthly salary of 5,200 Dirhams or the equivalent of Sixty-Seven Thousand Pesos (P67,000);

WHEREAS, CYM International Services promised the workers that they would be hired by the Road and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai after undergoing a training for one month;

WHEREAS, CYM International Services also referred the 137 applicants to RJJL Lending Company so they could take out a loan of P150,000 for the placement fee;

WHEREAS, most of the drivers applied for loans with the recommended lending company while some of them opted to look for other means to pay off the exorbitant placement fee;

WHEREAS, the recruiter told the bus drivers at the airport, on the day of their departure, to show their employment visas to the Philippine immigration officers but to use their tourist visa upon arrival in Dubai and the drivers were told to destroy the employment visa immediately after they entered Dubai;

WHEREAS, the bus drivers were issued employment contracts with different job descriptions such as merchandisers and sales executives, as well as employment visas with different sponsors, and were made to attend a pre-departure orientation seminar and obtain overseas employment certificates by the licensed agency;

WHEREAS, the 137 bus drivers were left to fend for themselves, under intolerable living conditions, with some resorting to scavenging in a nearby dumpsite while waiting for the promised training and jobs at RTA, which was not even in a hiring mode;

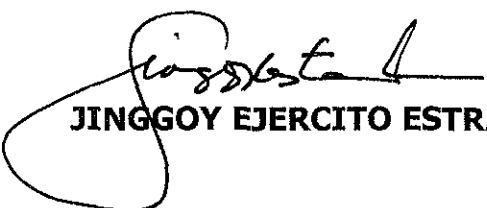
WHEREAS, the Filipino community in Dubai, upon learning about the plight of the 137 bus drivers, started a food and fund drive to help the illegal recruitment victims with the help of Filipino journalists who uncovered the recruitment scam;

WHEREAS, some of the drivers have been repatriated home, jobless and in dire need of assistance particularly in relation to loans incurred with the lending company referred by CYM International Services, as well as with other lenders;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Senate to look into the circumstances behind this large-scale recruitment scam perpetrated by CYM International Services, a duly-accredited and licensed manpower agency by POEA, and to plug the loopholes in the recruitment system and come up with a tougher legislation to regulate and discipline unscrupulous recruiters and lending companies that deal with OFWs;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate to direct the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the massive illegal recruitment scam committed by a licensed recruitment agency known as CYM International Services that led to the deployment of 137 bus drivers to non-existent jobs in Dubai and pending loans obtained under onerous terms and conditions.

Adopted,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA