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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Ps. Res. No. 982

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO STUDY THE CURRENT SITUATION OF OUR FILIPINO SEAFARERS AMID THE WORLD ECONOMIC SLUMP WITH THE INTENT OF FORMULATING AND RECOMMENDING LONG-TERM POLICIES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO MAY BE DISPLACED

WHEREAS, global economic meltdown has affected economies worldwide and bankruptcy, which resulted into the closure of the country's local and multi-national companies, created a substantial cut-down in employment;

WHEREAS, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) estimated that between 100,000 and 200,000 Filipino workers, both local and OFWs, may face unemployment in the months to come;

WHEREAS, adding more injury to this already depressing situation is the projected loss of employment of around 40,000 Filipino seafarers working for Japanese shipping companies;

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the looming world economic crisis which subsequently dropped trade demands worldwide, these shipping companies are forced to downsize their operations;

WHEREAS, data shows that about 300,000 Filipinos work on merchant shipping globally with Japan as the leading employer;

WHEREAS, around 50,000 of these seafarers are currently working onboard Japanese vessels where 40,000 crew members aboard car carriers, bulk carriers and container ships are feared to be displaced within the next six (6) months;

WHEREAS, according to ship-manning agencies, at least 433 container ships have been laid up worldwide due to lack of cargo and 45 of these foreign vessels are now laid up in Subic Bay and Davao ports;

WHEREAS, 40,000 jobless Filipinos translate to 40,000 and more affected, deprived and hungry families;

WHEREAS, recent reports disclosed that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) has already accumulated around P10 billion from contributions of both sea-based and land-based OFWs;


WHEREAS, this fund can be used to assist our seafarers who will be displaced within the next 6 months which is over and above those benefits and services provided under OWWA law;

WHEREAS, our OFWs – sea-based and land-based – are our country's number one export whose remittances reached about US\$12.30 billion for the period January-September 2008 alone, and almost single-handedly keep our economy afloat;

WHEREAS, it is just timely and befitting to recognize and reciprocate their sacrifices and huge contributions to our economy and as such, our government must formulate and implement long-term policies that would effectively benefit our OFWs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to study the current situation of our Filipino Seafarers amid the world economic slump with the end-in-view of formulating and recommending long-term policies that are accessible and responsive to the immediate needs of those who may be displaced under any given circumstances.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR