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SENATE

P.S. Res No. 1081

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO LOOK INTO THE REPORTED INCREASE IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALLEGEDLY VICTIMIZING ILLEGAL MIGRANTS AND DISPLACED OFWs BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ONGOING WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC SLUMP WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF ASSESSING OUR ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF WHICH WE ARE A PARTY THEREOF AS WELL FULL ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF R.A. 9208

WHEREAS, the Philippines being a party and signatory of international instruments that have been adopted to combat trafficking in humans as well as the alarming worldwide increase in and complexity of the phenomenon of human trafficking led to the enactment of Republic Act 9208;

WHEREAS, the passage of said legislative measure, otherwise known as the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003" was in pursuit of the State policy, as provided under Article II Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution, to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, according to newspaper reports, the International Labor Organization (ILO) warned that many OFWs particularly those undocumented, are the most likely victims of human trafficking and other forms of abuse;

WHEREAS, economic pressure to thousands of Filipino families brought about by the prevailing global economic slump is a major factor that forced our countrymen to work abroad even illegally without due regard on the consequences that they may face in foreign lands;

WHEREAS, illegally deployed workers have often been the casualties of labor exploitation and as the global financial crisis hits more of our communities, a surge in the number of victims of human trafficking is inevitable;

WHEREAS, the US State Department, in its 2008 Trafficking in Persons report stated that the Philippines continues to be "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor";

WHEREAS, the same report indicated that the Philippines is still under the category of governments that, although making efforts to do so, does not fully comply with the minimum standards set under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TPVA) of 2000;

WHEREAS, this brings us under the same category (Tier 2 Category) as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chile, East Timor, Mongolia and Vietnam;

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said that *although there is yet any proof on the increase in illegal recruitment and human trafficking cases due to the continuing economic slump*, it admitted however, that it receives report on human trafficking activities through our airports particularly at the Diosdado Macapagal Airport in Clark, Pampanga;

WHEREAS, the DSWD also reported that every week, around 500 people from Malaysia enter our country via Zamboanga mostly by illegal means who are vulnerable to human trafficking;

WHEREAS, realizing the immediate need to respond to the problem of human trafficking, it is imperative that authorities should exert utmost efforts to fully implement the objectives set forth under RA 9208; significantly improve the record of prosecutions, convictions, and punishments for traffickers; disseminate information of said Act throughout the country and train law enforcement officers and prosecutors on the anti-trafficking law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to urge the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development and other appropriate Senate Committees to assess our country's human trafficking cases allegedly victimizing illegal migrants and displaced OFWs and look into our adherence to international instruments on human trafficking of which we are a party and finally a full implementation and enforcement of R.A. 9208 with particular emphasis on Section 20 thereof with regard the authority delegated to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and Section 23 with regard the mandatory services for which the victims are entitled to as mandated under the law.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR