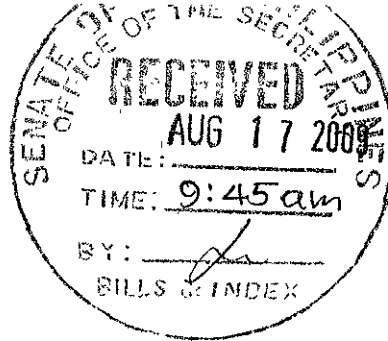


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1280

INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

HONORING AND COMMENDING DIRECTOR FINARDO G. CABILAO OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), FOR HIS NOBLE WORK AND SELFLESS SERVICE AS SOCIAL WELFARE ATTACHÉ IN MALAYSIA, WHO UPHELD THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF OUR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) AND FOUGHT AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MALAYSIA, AND WHOSE DEATH EMPHASIZED THE VULNERABILITY OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO RESCUE DISTRESSED OFWS.

WHEREAS, Section 2(b) of Republic Act No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, states that “the State shall provide adequate and timely social, economic and legal services to Filipino migrant workers”;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 287 directs the deployment or posting of social welfare attaches in Philippine Foreign Posts with large concentration of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);

WHEREAS, in July 2008, Director Finardo G. Cabilao of the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD), who has been in the service of Department of Social Welfare and Development since 1980, was posted as the Philippines’ Social Welfare Attaché to Malaysia;

WHEREAS, Director Cabilao rose from the ranks in the DSWD, starting as a Social Worker at the National Training School for Boys, he then became a Social Welfare Officer of the Bureau of Family and Community Welfare, and climbed up the ladder as Director of the Social Technology Bureau, while concurrently holding the post as Social Welfare Attaché in Malaysia;

WHEREAS, as Social Welfare Attache in Malaysia, he has exemplarily performed his duties to protect and promote the welfare of migrant workers, especially the victims of illegal recruitment and human trafficking in Malaysia by providing them the necessary psycho-social services;

WHEREAS, on 7 August 2009, Philippine embassy officials found Director Cabilao’s body in his Kuala Lumpur apartment, after he has failed to report for work for two straight days, with multiple head and body injuries believed to have been inflicted upon him by more than one attacker;

WHEREAS, Kuala Lumpur police criminal investigation chief Ku Chin Wah was quoted in news reports as saying authorities have ruled out robbery as a motive to his murder because Cabilao's cash and valuables had not been taken, and that his death is still under investigation of the Malaysian police;

WHEREAS, former Department of Labor Undersecretary and current President of the Ople Policy Center, Susan Ople, describes the death of Director Cabilao as a big loss to the fight against human trafficking, given that he has been most active in helping victims of trafficking and illegal recruitment in Malaysia, including those trapped in brothels in Sarawak and in Sabah;

WHEREAS, prior to his death, he had pushed for a comprehensive program that will respond to the needs of each victims, as well as improve the recovery of the victims and integration to the society, including the compulsory medical and psycho-social debriefing of repatriated survivors of human trafficking;

WHEREAS, Director Cabilao firmly believed in the human worth and dignity of every human being and he has stood up for this to fulfill his duty as a social worker for the most oppressed OFWs, especially the victims of organized trafficking syndicate in Malaysia;

WHEREAS, his passion and commitment to his vocation as a social worker is incomparable for he has dedicated his whole life to the service of the most disadvantaged group, namely, the children, juvenile delinquents, women, senior citizens, and trafficked victims;

WHEREAS, his death underscores the vulnerability of embassy personnel assigned to rescue distressed OFWs, particularly those who were victims of human trafficking in brothels managed and/or owned by syndicates;

WHEREAS, the humanitarian service rendered by social welfare attaches as exemplified by Director Cabilao cannot be overemphasized and highlights the need for our embassies and consulates to provide necessary protection and security precautionary briefing to their staff in the frontline services to make sure they are secured when they perform their noble duties in protecting our OFWs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate commends Director Finardo G. Cabilao of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), for his noble work and selfless service as a Social Welfare Attaché in Malaysia, who upheld the rights and interests of our Overseas Filipino Workers and fought against the proliferation of human trafficking in Malaysia, and whose death emphasized the vulnerability of embassy personnel assigned to rescue distressed OFWS.

Adopted,


M A R ROKAS
Senator