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SENATE

PSR No. 1292

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS INVESTMENT (OWI) FUND AND OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) FUND AND THEIR FUNDED PROGRAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THEY HAVE ACTUALLY SERVED THE GENUINE INTERESTS OF OUR OVERSEAS FOREIGN WORKERS, AND RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE ACTION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18, states that, "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, a significant number of the Philippine workforce that has greatly contributed to help the Philippine economy stay afloat, and who deserve to be protected by the government as mandated by the Constitution, come from the Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) sector;

WHEREAS, Congress passed RA 7111 in 1991 which created the Overseas Workers Investment Fund and intended to "encourage greater remittance of earnings of OFW's and to safeguard and oversee the participation of said workers' remittances and savings in the Government's debt reduction efforts and other productive undertakings";

WHEREAS, The Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) fund is another single trust pooled from the US \$ 25.00 membership contributions of foreign employers, land-based and sea-based workers, investment and interest income, and income from other sources;

WHEREAS, the implementation of the OWI Fund Act as stated in RA 7111 only operated for five years since its creation in 1991;

WHEREAS, the OWWA fund is now close to Nine Billion Dollars;

WHEREAS, there are several programs financed by the OWWA fund purportedly to benefit our OFW's such as Insurance and Health-Care Program, Education and Training Benefits, Family welfare and assistance program, Workers assistance and on-site services;

WHEREAS, RA 8042 otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act provided for a 100 million peso fund for repatriation of our distressed OFW's with OWWA;

WHEREAS, a huge number of OFWs have aired their grievances towards these agencies and see the need to review the utilization of the OWI and OWWA funds and all the programs under it to maximize their benefits and incentives;

WHEREAS, among their pleas, the OFWs submit that they must be given due representation in the decision-making body which handles the OWI and OWWA fund in recognition of their right to participate in the appropriation and utilization of these funds;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS INVESTMENT (OWI) FUND AND OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) FUND AND THEIR FUNDED PROGRAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THEY HAVE ACTUALLY SERVED THE GENUINE INTERESTS OF OUR OVERSEAS FOREIGN WORKERS, AND RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE ACTION

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator