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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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**S E N A T E
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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND RECOMMEND THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAILOUT PACKAGE AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO AID SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED WORKERS AND THOSE GROSSLY AFFECTED BY THE CLOSING DOWN OF INDUSTRIES

Whereas, the interdependence of employment made available to the people by the local industries and a reliable growth of the industries in the goal to pursue economic growth and ultimately provide a better life for the people is embodied in the Philippine Constitution, aptly that in Section 19, “[t]he State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos,” which accordingly recognizes the role of the workers in an active economy in Section 18, “[t]he State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare”;

Whereas, amidst the incessant rebuff by the national government that the global economic recession has yet surged the local industries ensuing the massive decline in income and forestalling prospective economic growth, the IBON Foundation, Inc, an independent development institution which provides research, education, publications, information work and advocacy support on socioeconomic issues, in the earlier part of 2009 has projected the threat of the deepening recession in the local economy;

Whereas, IBON research head Sonny Africa, in his speech during the IBON Birdtalk yearend briefing claimed that in 2008, the economic growth fell by nearly three percentage points which is proportionate to the adverse trends in unemployment, falling incomes, and worsening poverty, and is projected to delve deeper in 2009, grossly affecting the industries and ultimately, the workers employed in the affected industries (Philippines Now in Recession, Pinoy Press, January 17, 2009 ;

Whereas, recently, Cebu-based electronic firm Celestica at the Mactan Export Processing Zone has already ceased its operations since August 21, 2009 resulting to the retrenchment of 900 workers, preceding the impending closure of Taguig-based Triumph garments factory and its subsidiary Star Performance both of which are set to close on August 28 “Unemployment Subsidy Pushed”, Philippine Star, Michelle L. Palaubsanon, Julv 12. 2009:

Whereas, the closure of Triumph garments factory and its subsidiary will result in the retrenchment of 1,600 workers, most of whom are women;

Whereas, in the light of constant retrenchment and closing down of major industries, concerned groups and labor organizations particularly lead by IBON and the Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) call on the national government to address the needs of retrenched workers resultant of the apparent economic recession;

Whereas, the government should consider drawing up specific plans to deliver support and assistance to the retrenched employees from the firms dependent on the declining export industry;

Whereas, particularly, a bailout package for the workers is recommended to secure them from the adverse effects of unemployment;

Whereas, Labor group Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) has recommended that the government consider programs which when implemented appropriately, can effectively provide aid not only for the displaced workers but also for those working for industries greatly dependent on the export, at the mercy of the looming recession, to wit: unemployment subsidy for displaced workers; tax refund for all wage earners; expansion and reform of the public employment program; extension of health care coverage for displaced workers; and moratorium on demolitions and evictions;

Whereas, it is thereby recommended that the government take appropriate action on the current problem of unemployment pressed as an undesirable effect of the recession to our local industries, impairing the opportunities for employment depended on by a large mass of our people; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development and other appropriate committees to conduct a study and recommend the full implementation of bailout package and assistance programs designed to aid support and assistance to displaced workers and those grossly affected by the closing down of industries.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR