

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 2037

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Millions of Filipinos live and work overseas while continuing to vote and pay taxes in the Philippines. They help in the economy and serve as economic, political and cultural "ambassadors" of the country.

Hence, the National Statistics Office should undertake a census of all Filipinos residing abroad in a special census and eventually in regular censuses as they, albeit living abroad, deserve to receive the same benefits and privileges local residents get.

This proposed measure seeks to provide for an interim census of Filipinos residing abroad for the purpose of eventually including them in regular census.

In view thereof, the early passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.

JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator



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AN ACT  
TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM CENSUS OF FILIPINOS RESIDING ABROAD  
AND TO REQUIRE THAT SUCH INDIVIDUALS BE INCLUDED IN REGULAR  
CENSUSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Census of Filipinos Abroad Act**”.

**SEC. 2. Counting of Filipinos Abroad.** – The National Statistics Office (NSO) shall:

- (1) take a special census of all Filipinos residing abroad within 360 days after the approval of this Act;
- (2) submit the final tabulations under the special census to the President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress within nine (9) months after the date specified in paragraph (1), broken down into all appropriate categories, including –
  - (a) Filipinos residing abroad affiliated with the Government and their dependents; and,
  - (b) Filipinos residing abroad not affiliated with the Government and their dependents;
- (3) the office, for purposes of facilitating the census scheme shall:
  - (a) develop counting methodologies;
  - (b) define the purposes for which any information could or should be used; and
  - (c) whether Filipinos residing abroad can be included in the regular census for the purposes of the apportionment of representatives in Congress and, if so, how it should be done; and
- (4) take appropriate measures

- (a) to provide for the inclusion of Filipinos residing abroad in the next regular census thereafter;
- (b) Interim Report on Special Census – not later than ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the National Statistics Office shall submit to the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress a report which shall include –
  - i. a summary of how the plans and preparations for carrying out the special census are proceeding;
  - ii. a brief description or outline of how the tabulations in the special census are to be carried out; and
  - iii. information identifying any experts, consultants, interest groups, or persons who were consulted in connection with the special census.

**SEC. 3. Authorization of Appropriations.** – Such sum as may be necessary to carry out this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

**SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly

**SEC. 6. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*