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SENATE
P.S. Res 534

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Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO FURTHER EXAMINE HOUSEWIVES', STUDENTS', DISABLED OR RETIRED PERSONS' AND SEASONAL WORKERS' ACCESS TO THE BENEFITS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9501 OR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SCALE ENTERPRISES, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9178 OR THE BARANGAY MICRO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ACT OF 2002 AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS TO FURTHER PROMOTE ESTABLISHMENT OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE LABOR FORCE AND TACKLE INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT

Whereas, micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) comprise about 99% of the total commercial and industrial establishments in the country and employ 66% of the labor force;

Whereas, entrepreneurship is key to poverty alleviation and livelihood diversification;

Whereas, MSMEs contribute to some 30% of the country's total productivity;

Whereas, the programs of the government with regard to establishment and development of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) in terms of providing incentives and benefits matched with business development are less known among the common *tao*;

Whereas, despite a 7.2% growth of the domestic economy in 2013, the ranks of the jobless continue to swell as jobless rate in the Philippines averaged 7.3% in 2013 or 2.99 million of the country's 40.96 million in the labor force, up from 7% in 2012;

Whereas, the results of the 4th quarter survey of the Social Weather Stations in last year paint a grimmer picture at the country's unemployment rate, registering 27.5% or an estimated 12.1 million individuals being jobless, as 2.5

million Filipinos joined the ranks of the jobless between September and December;

Whereas, according to the *Philippine Economic Update: Accelerating Reforms to Meet the Jobs Challenge* released by the World Bank in May 2013, the Philippines faces an "enormous jobs challenge" wherein "good jobs—meaning jobs that raise real wages and bring people out of poverty—need to be provided to around 10 million Filipinos who were either unemployed or underemployed in 2012 and to around 1.1 million potential entrants to the labor force every year from 2013 to 2016";

Whereas, the World Bank report said that a total of 14.4 million jobs need to be created through 2016, in addition to "better jobs" that need to be provided to another 21 million Filipinos who are informally employed who comprise about 75 percent of total employment;

Whereas, housewives, students, disabled or retired persons, and seasonal workers—or those outside the labor force—could be tapped to make a dent on unemployment and promote inclusive growth;

Whereas, a more aggressive educational campaign should be undertaken by the government about access to credit, benefits and privileges to those outside the labor force who want to set-up businesses;

Whereas, Go Negosyo, the advocacy arm of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, must be commended for providing as a catalyst living with its statement "teach a nation how to fish, feed the nation many lifetimes" and its efforts in championing entrepreneurship as an alternative to unemployment, job-seeking or migration;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship examine housewives', students', disabled or retired persons' and seasonal workers' access to the benefits of Republic Act No. 9501 or the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Republic Act No. 9178 or the Barangay Micro Business Enterprises Act of 2002 and other pertinent laws to further promote the establishments of MSMEs for those outside the labor force and tackle increasing unemployment.

Adopted,


GRACE POE