

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

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 06

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Lacson

RESOLUTION

**RECOMMENDING THE LIFTING OF DEPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS TO SELECTIVE AREAS IN IRAQ IN PARTICULAR
WHERE THE WORKERS ARE ASSIGNED TO WORK INSIDE THE US
MILITARY BASES LOCATED THEREIN**

Whereas, the Philippine government imposed a ban on the deployment of Filipino Overseas Workers to Iraq after it has been reported that a Filipino truck driver was killed in an ambush in Iraq last April;

Whereas, on June 29, 2004, Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued Department Order No. 60-04 lifting on a selective basis the temporary ban on the deployment of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW's) in Iraq effective July 1, 2004 upon recommendation of the Presidential Middle East and Preparedness Committee/Inter-agency Task Force in Iraq;

Whereas, even Ambassador Roy Cimatu favorably recommended the resumption of the deployment of OFW's to Iraq on a calibrated, graduated and selective basis taking into account Iraq's security and political situation as well as the Philippine government's firm commitment to help in the economic rebuilding of Iraq;

Whereas, subsequently on July 8, 2004 or days after the abduction of Mr. Angelo de la Cruz, the DOLE issued Department Order 61-04 again suspending the processing and deployment of workers bound for Iraq;

Whereas, due to this DOLE directive, thousands of job orders received by the government before the current ban translating to around \$102.48 million per annum in wages to our prospective OFWs remained unfilled as of this day;

Whereas, on account of this development, there are reports coming from local recruitment agencies that foreign employers based in Iraq are now recruiting workers from other countries to fill up the positions intended for Filipinos;


Whereas, this potential remittances from our prospective OFWs would be of great help to our country's economy in light of the large number of unemployed and underemployed Filipinos and the brewing financial crisis that our country is facing;

Whereas, our workers and many recruitment agencies are requesting that said ban be lifted selectively in cases where the deployment are inside Camp Victory and Camp Anaconda which are considered safe and secured areas;

Whereas, in view of the foregoing, it is imperative that this situation be addressed immediately taking into account the general welfare of our OFWs whom we consider to be the modern day heroes of our country; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to recommend the lifting of the ban on the deployment of our Overseas Filipino Workers to selected areas in Iraq particularly if these workers will be working inside the US Military installation located therein.

Adopted,


HON. PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator