

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 DEC 16 P5:30

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1683

RECEIVED BY: X

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT THE OVERSEAS
WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION FAILED TO COLLECT SOME ₱137 MILLION
IN TOTAL TICKET COSTS ADVANCED TO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: "The State shall maintain
2 honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft
3 and corruption";

4 WHEREAS, the recently released Commission on Audit (COA) report on the Overseas
5 Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) showed that the agency failed to collect ₱137.383
6 million in total ticket costs advanced to overseas Filipino workers;

7 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that such findings are contrary to the Omnibus Rules
8 and Regulations Implementing the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Workers Act of 1995,
9 as amended, Rule 9, Section 1, which charges against the principal, employer, or agency the
10 repatriation costs for OFWs;

11 WHEREAS, the COA added that the OWWA is also empowered by the same rules,
12 Section 4, to suspend documentary processing or impose sanctions on principals, employers, or
13 agencies, who fail to provide the ticket or reimburse the OWWA for ticket costs, including legal
14 interest;

15 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that there was failure on the part of COA to exert
16 effort to collect, noting that debtors had series of transactions with the OWWA for several years
17 notwithstanding their debts;

18 WHEREAS, the COA argued that non-recovery of the costs depleted the funds for the
19 repatriation of other OFWs;

20 WHEREAS, the Congress, in coordination with the OWWA and other concerned
21 agencies, must put in place measures to improve the agency's ability to collect repatriation costs
22 from principals, employers, or agencies that hire OFWs;

1 WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper
2 Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent Commission on Audit
3 report that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration failed to collect ₱137.383 million in
4 total ticket costs advanced to overseas Filipino workers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
JP

/crsmg12Nov2015