

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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

Resolution No. 86

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

RESOLUTION

URGING AND DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LACK OF PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING DROP IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO WORKERS IN THAT SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA

WHEREAS, records of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) show that from a high of 155,270 OFWs who were deployed in Hong Kong in December 2001, the number has dropped to 123,189 as of June 2004;

WHEREAS, while Hong Kong has praised the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) for their role in maintaining and sustaining the former Crown Colony's indispensable "international character", the Hong Kong Labor Department encouraged OFWs to remain competitive and avail of other opportunities in Hong Kong by honing up on the Cantonese language, Oriental culinary arts, and other skills;

WHEREAS, Cantonese-speaking employers are a bigger market in Hong Kong than the English-speaking market - which is the strength of the OFWs, that is just 30 to 40 percent of the total;

WHEREAS, Filipino domestic helpers seeking jobs in Hong Kong should undergo training in the Cantonese language and undergo a longer training period to check the continuing drop in the deployment of Filipino workers in Hong Kong and to keep in step with Indonesian maids, who attend three to six months live-in training in household work and are also trained in the Cantonese language;

WHEREAS, newspaper reports indicate that Indonesian domestic helpers are the primary competitors of Filipino domestic helpers who are losing out in the Hong Kong labor market due largely to unfamiliarity with the Cantonese language and household training of not more than fourteen days;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and POEA to come up with a comprehensive plan to address the problem stated above and to enhance the competitiveness of OFWs who plan to seek employment in

Hong Kong in order to arrest the waning interest of Hong Kong employers in our OFWs.
Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to Urge and Direct The Committee On Labor, Employment And Human Resources Development To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, On The Lack Of Programs To Enhance The Competitiveness Of The Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) Seeking Employment In Hong Kong In Light Of The Continuing Drop In The Deployment Of Filipino Workers In That Special Administrative Region of China.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG BEVILLA, JR.
Senator