



'19 OCT -2 A11 :26

SENATE

S. No. 1094

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS TO ESTABLISH "OFW FAMILY HELP DESKS" IN THEIR OFFICES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to protect, strengthen and promote the total development of the family as a basic autonomous social institution and as the foundation of the nation.

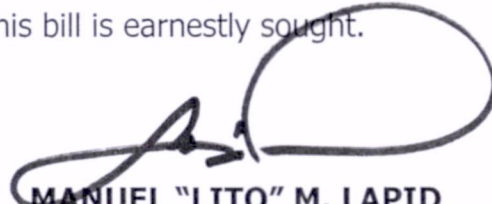
According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, approximately 2.3 million Filipinos worked abroad from April to September 2018.

Although the main intent is to ensure support and sustenance of their families, the harsh reality is that the costs, such as the difficulty of living distantly from their families, overpowers the proposed benefits. As a result, the well-being of the families of the OFWs and/or the OFWs themselves are at stake. Further, it leads to the weakening of family ties.

This bill seeks to require all heads of local government units to create and establish an OFW Family Help Desks in their respective offices to provide assistance in addressing concerns of families of OFWs, which includes among others, counseling on business and livelihood opportunities. This bill mandates that the database of all

concerned government agencies particularly that of the POEA and the OWWA on updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing be linked with these OFW Help Desks.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, stylized loop at the end, is positioned above the printed name. Below the printed name, there is a small, handwritten mark that resembles a checkmark or the letter 'v'.

'19 OCT -2 A11 :26

SENATE

S. No. 1094

RECEIVED _____ 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
TO ESTABLISH "OFW FAMILY HELP DESKS" IN THEIR OFFICES**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "*OFW Family Help Desks*
2 *Act*".

3
4 **SECTION 2.** *Coverage.* — This Act shall cover all families of Overseas Filipino
5 Workers (OFW), whether land-based or sea-based, documented or undocumented.

6
7 **SECTION 3.** *Declaration of Policy.* — This Act is in furtherance of the State
8 Policies provisions of the Constitution, to wit:

9 A. Section 12, Article XI: "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and
10 shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social
11 institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the
12 unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents
13 in rearing the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral
14 character shall receive the support of the Government.";

15 B. Section 1, Article XV: "The State recognizes the Filipino family as the

1 foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and
2 actively promote its total development.”

3 C. Section 3, Article XV. “The State shall defend:

4 (1) The right of spouses to find a family in accordance with their religious
5 convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood;

6 (2) The right of children to assistance, including proper care and
7 nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse,
8 cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their
9 development;

10 (3) The right of the family to a family living wage and income; and

11 (4) The right of families or family associations to participate in the
12 planning and implementation of policies and programs that affect
13 them.”

14
15 This Act is also in pursuance of Article 149 of the Family Code which
16 says that, “The family, being the foundation of the nation, is a basic social
17 institution which public policy cherishes and protects.”

18
19 **SECTION 4.** *The Role of Governors and Mayors.* — Provincial Governors, City
20 and Municipal Mayors are traditionally known as the “*Ama*” or “*Ina*” of their respective
21 local government units and must perforce fill the gap in protecting and overseeing the
22 welfare of families of OFWs in their areas of responsibilities.

23
24 **SECTION 5.** *Creation of OFW Family Help Desks.* — All Provincial Governors,
25 City and Municipal Mayors are hereby required to establish OFW Family Help Desks in
26 their offices to attend to and provide assistance to the families of Overseas Filipino
27 Workers who are residents within their respective territorial jurisdictions, in addressing
28 concerns or problems in relation to employment, welfare and business and livelihood
29 opportunities, among others.

30 All local government units (LGUs), in partnership with the DFA, POEA, OWWA,
31 other concerned government agencies, shall also take a proactive stance in the
32 dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas

1 employment. Such help desks shall be linked to the database of all concerned
2 government agencies particularly the POEA and the OWWA for its updated lists of
3 overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing.
4

5 **SECTION 6.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Secretary of the
6 Department of Interior and Local Government is hereby tasked to implement this Act
7 and shall, in consultation with the local government units, the Philippine Overseas
8 Employment Administration (POEA), the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
9 (OWWA), other concerned government agencies, formulate the necessary
10 implementing rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act
11 within ninety (90) days after its effectivity.
12

13 **SECTION 7.** *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders,
14 issuances, rules and regulations which may be inconsistent with any of the provisions
15 of this Act, are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
16

17 **SECTION 8.** *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
19 circulation.
20

21 *Approved,*