

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



Senate  
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23 JAN 30 A11 :08

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

P.S. Res. No. 448

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Introduced by Senator **RAFFY T. TULFO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO REVISIT, RE-EXAMINE AND REVIEW THE EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND STANDARD EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT GOVERNING OFWS IN KUWAIT, WITH THE END VIEW OF ESTABLISHING STRICTER POLICIES, PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND APPLICABLE SANCTIONS OR BAN IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF OFWS IN KUWAIT**

1           WHEREAS, our Constitution guarantees the right of every Filipino to LIFE,  
2 LIBERTY and PROPERTY, which includes among others, the right to enjoy a quality  
3 life with access to gainful employment, whether here or abroad.

4

5           WHEREAS, in line with the Constitutional mandate, the government has  
6 continuously belabored to enact and promulgate laws that protect and preserve the  
7 rights of every Filipino worker, including and especially our modern-day heroes  
8 abroad, our OFWs.

9

10           WHEREAS, one of the many efforts of the government was the passage of  
11 Republic Act No. 11641 that provides for the creation and establishment of the

1 Department of Migrant Workers to ensure the protection and promotion of interests,  
2 timely resolutions of concerns and reintegration of our Overseas Filipino Workers.

3  
4 WHEREAS, despite these earnest undertakings of the government, the sad  
5 news on the sudden death of Jullibee Ranara on January 22, 2023, a Filipina overseas  
6 worker in Kuwait who was only 35 years old, allegedly murdered, burned and her body  
7 thrown in the desert came as another shock.

8  
9 WHEREAS, this is not the first time that a tragedy of such nature involving our  
10 Filipina domestic workers happened in the Gulf State. In 2018, Joanna Demafelis was  
11 killed and in December 2019, Jeanelyn Villavende was also murdered and found in her  
12 employer's freezer.

13  
14 WHEREAS, following the death of Joanna Demafelis, the government imposed  
15 a ban on the deployment of OFWs to Kuwait on February 2018, but shortly thereafter,  
16 it was lifted on May 16, 2018. Similarly, another ban was issued in February 2020 after  
17 the death of Jeanelyn Demafelis. Subsequently however, the ban was lifted after a  
18 month.

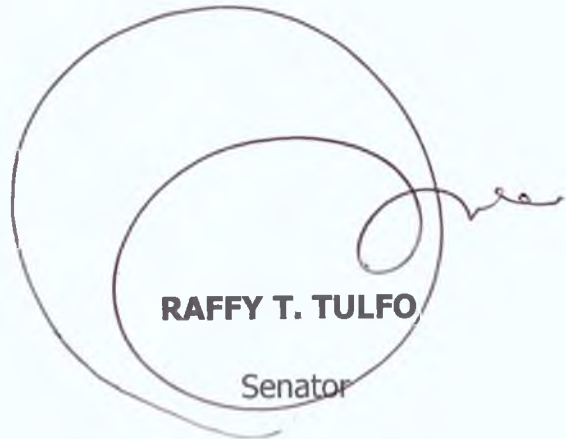
19  
20 WHEREAS, since 2016, 196 Filipino workers have died in Kuwait, and nearly 80  
21 percent of those deaths were due to physical abuse, according to the Philippines'  
22 Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. In 2017, the Philippine embassy in Kuwait  
23 registered 6,000 cases of abuse, sexual harassment and rape.

24  
25 WHEREAS, the lifting of the deployment ban in 2020 was premised on the  
26 adoption of a more harmonized Standard Employment Contract for Filipino OFWs in  
27 Kuwait, which was agreed upon and signed by the Philippine and Kuwait governments,  
28 and with terms and conditions purportedly for the added protection and welfare of our  
29 OFWs.

1           WHEREAS, despite the aforesaid lifting of the deployment ban to Kuwait and  
2 the use and enforcement of a new Standard Employment Contract, tragedies such as  
3 those of Joanna, Jeanelyn and now, Jullibee's, remain a perplexing reality.

4  
5           NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved,  
6 to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation,  
7 to revisit, re-examine and review the existing Bilateral Agreement and Standard  
8 Employment Contract governing OFWs in Kuwait, with the end view of establishing  
9 stricter policies, preventive measures and applicable sanctions or ban in the  
10 deployment of OFWs in Kuwait.

Adopted,



**RAFFY T. TULFO**  
Senator