

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

5 OCT 18 P1: -

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 358

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE THREATENED LOSS OF JOBS OF SOME 200,000 LOCAL GARMENTS WORKERS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING POLICY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE LOCAL GARMENTS INDUSTRY WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution mandates that "the State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.";

WHEREAS, Officials of the Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines (Congep) said some 200,000 workers, or about half of the local garments industry workforce, are in danger of losing their jobs over the next three years due to competition with low-cost producers like China;

WHEREAS, the termination at the end of 2004 of the international Multi-Fiber Agreement which laid out a global quota system for the garments industry, caused the entry of huge volumes of garments from China into the world's largest markets including the United States, Canada and Europe

WHEREAS, the United States market accounts for about 70-percent of the country's export earnings from garments, bringing in an average of \$2.8 billion yearly, with shipments to the US reaching \$1.9 billion;

WHEREAS, the higher cost of labor and other inputs in the Philippines compared to those in other Asian countries threatens to kill the industry, Congep said;

WHEREAS, the local industry represents a total of 400,000 direct jobs and a million indirect jobs;

WHEREAS, in 2002, there were about 1,100 local garments firms. But by the end of 2004, only about 950 are still operating;

WHEREAS, there is a need to save the local garments industry and its workforce from extinction;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the threatened loss of jobs of some 200,000 local garments workers over the next three years, with the end view of recommending policy measures to protect the local garments industry workforce.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator