

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



24 MAR 14 P1:05

**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 969**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO STRENGTHENING DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND IRAQ WITH THE END VIEW OF REFINING MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF FILIPINO NATIONALS IN IRAQ**

1           WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Iraq formally  
2 established diplomatic relations on 12 January 1975 and have maintained embassies  
3 in each other's capitals since 1980;

4           WHEREAS, since the establishment of their diplomatic ties, both nations have  
5 developed and sustained friendly relations, reaching several agreements on matters  
6 of mutual interests ranging from economic, culture, education, scientific and technical  
7 cooperation, air transport, commerce, health, and trade;

8           WHEREAS, "desiring to further strengthen the cordial relations existing between  
9 their countries and realizing that the protection and promotion of the employment and  
10 well-being of their workers will enhance the socio-economic development of their  
11 respective countries," the Philippines and Iraq entered into a Memorandum of  
12 Agreement Relating to Mobilization of Manpower on 25 November 1982;

13           WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas  
14 Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended by Republic Act No. 10022, grants authority to the  
15 Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Governing Board, after  
16 consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), to terminate or impose a  
17 ban on the deployment of Filipino migrant workers;

1           WHEREAS, in January 2020, due to escalating events in Iraq, the DFA raised  
2 the crisis alert level in the whole of Iraq to Alert Level 4, indicating a mandatory  
3 repatriation phase, and resulted in the imposition of a total deployment ban on the  
4 processing and deployment of all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);

5           WHEREAS, on 11 October 2021, upon the recommendation of the Philippine  
6 Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, the DFA lowered the crisis alert level in Iraq to Alert Level  
7 3, which indicated a voluntary repatriation phase. This move resulted in the issuance  
8 of POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 09 on 21 October 2021, which eased the  
9 deployment ban, granting an exemption for returning OFWs to Iraq, subject to specific  
10 conditions;

11           WHEREAS, on 30 August 2023, the DFA successfully hosted the 8th Philippines-  
12 Iraq Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Manila after a ten-year gap to set the direction  
13 of the two nations' bilateral relations in the years to come and to discuss issues of  
14 mutual interest and concern;

15           WHEREAS, in the said 8th JCM, the 19-member delegation from Iraq appealed  
16 for the reconsideration and lifting of the deployment ban on Filipino workers,  
17 expressing their hope to hire more Filipino workers in their country, especially  
18 healthcare professionals in connection with Iraq's ongoing efforts to improve its health  
19 care system;

20           WHEREAS, said delegation from Iraq also extended an invitation to Filipino  
21 officials to visit Iraq and assess what they believe to be an improving security situation  
22 in the country;

23           WHEREAS, as reported by the Philippine News Agency on 31 August 2023,  
24 Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Eduardo Jose De Vega stated, when sought for  
25 comment, that the DFA defers to the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), which  
26 initially expressed the need for a review of the situation and potential visit to Iraq  
27 before considering the lifting of the deployment ban;

28           WHEREAS, in pursuit of reinforcing the longstanding diplomatic ties between  
29 the Philippines and Iraq, and recognizing the paramount importance of promoting the  
30 welfare and interests of our OFWs, it is imperative to conduct a comprehensive review  
31 of the efficacy of measures in place to safeguard the well-being of Filipino nationals

1 in Iraq, including the evaluation of the country's overall security situation: Now,  
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the Senate  
4 Committee on Foreign Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into  
5 strengthening diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Iraq with the end view of  
6 refining measures for the protection and welfare of Filipino nationals in Iraq.

Adopted,



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**  
*Senator*