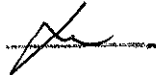


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

8 MAY 12 2011

SENATE  
P.S. Res. **392**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE PRE-DEPARTURE LOAN PROGRAM OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ITS TRANSACTIONS AND ENSURING DELIVERY OF ITS WELFARE SERVICES AND BENEFITS**

Whereas, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is the lead government agency tasked to promote and protect the welfare and well-being of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their dependents;

Whereas, in Section 21 of the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (RA 8042), the OWWA is mandated to provide the OFWs and their dependents all possible assistance they may need in preparation for their employment abroad and in fact, in the same provision, a revolving fund amounting to Php 100 million from the OWWA is set aside as a guarantee fund to expand the grant of pre-departure loans and family assistance loan;

Whereas, very recently, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration suspended the implementation of the pre-departure loan program citing that it incurred losses amounting to about Php 70 million;

Whereas, OWWA cited that the suspension of the program is needed to review the system and come up with a better procedure to assist OFWs and at the same time, to continue, sustain and preserve the integrity of the OWWA Fund;

Whereas, the pre-departure loans are those granted to departing migrant workers covered by new contracts to satisfy their pre-departure requirements such as payments for placement/processing fees, travel dossiers as application for working visas and others, airplane fares, subsistence allowance, cost of clothing and pocket money;

Whereas, every Filipino who goes abroad has to pay a \$ 25 membership fee to OWWA before leaving the country and in the past, the fund has been used for a

substantial number of good projects and reasons including assisting OFWs in distress when they need emergency hospital assistance or need a plane ticket to return home after being abandoned by their employers;


Whereas, transparency in how the OWWA Fund is being managed is significant considering that there are allegations as regards the Administration's spotty reputation in handling such a huge fund derived from the hard-won earnings of OFWs;

Whereas, while OWWA's mandate includes ensuring capital build-up and fund viability, it must guarantee that its delivery of welfare services and benefits is not sacrificed nor should be it be at the expense of accountability;

Whereas, every cent and peso of the OWWA Fund and the implementation of its welfare programs must be fully accounted and declared to the public: Now therefore it

Resolved, To urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, anent the suspension of the Pre-Departure Loan Program of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) with the end-in-view of promoting transparency and accountability in its transactions and ensuring delivery of its welfare services and benefits.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**