

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 SEP 13 P3:18

SENATE
P. S. R. No. **169**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO AUDIT THE OVERSEAS
WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) FUND

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18, states: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 7 September 2010 article reported that the Migrant-Middle East, an alliance of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the region, demanded the audit of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's (OWWA) funds;

WHEREAS, the funds, which are estimated between P10 billion and P12 billion and held in trust by the agency, come from the compulsory collection of \$25 membership fees from all deployed OFWs;

WHEREAS, under the regulations, the membership fee should be paid by the foreign employer, but the report claimed that OFWs often end up paying the fees prior to their departure;

WHEREAS, the report also stated that the funds were allegedly misused by the previous administration for political campaigns and that according to past complaints, there were also allegations of unaudited expenses for the mass evacuations of distressed OFWs;

WHEREAS, John Leonard Monterona, Migrant-Mideast regional coordinator, reportedly claimed that the OFWs trust fund continues to grow because according to government statistics there are around 3,800 OFWs deployed daily; he added that the fund could have reached as much as P12.8 billion by now;

WHEREAS, Monterona reportedly said that if the trust fund is growing, the OWWA should come up with sufficient programs and welfare services to cater to the needs of OFWs on-site and their dependents back home;

WHEREAS, Monterana proposed that in order to ensure transparency, the OWWA fund should be audited in the presence of representatives of various OFWs groups;

WHEREAS, the clamor to have the OWWA funds audited has long been a pressing concern; the legislature should therefore address this by creating measures and

guidelines that will direct the auditing of the fund, aside from merely leaving it to the Commission on Audit;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate committee on labor, employment & human resource development to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported need to audit the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration fund.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/mat