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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 927

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PROPOSALS TO ALLEVIATE
THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS ON WOMEN WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 14 provides: The State shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation;

WHEREAS, according to the workers group Partido ng Manggagawa (PM), women workers in the country are supposedly most affected by the global economic crisis gripping workplaces they dominate;

WHEREAS, PM's secretary-general Judy Ann Miranda allegedly said, "More than anybody else, women workers shoulder the heavy burden of the ongoing economic crisis due to lack of social protection from the state and the weak observance and implementation of core labor standards in the country";

WHEREAS, Miranda seemingly criticized the government's theme for this month's International Women's Day celebration that focuses more on entrepreneurship rather than job protection and generation; she added that the theme "*Babae, Yaman ka ng Bayan*" highlights the women's exceptional role in poverty alleviation, but this merely stresses the self-help economic activities that they have already been doing since time immemorial because of lack of employment;

WHEREAS, to alleviate women's worries created by the global economic crisis, Miranda reportedly called for an unemployment subsidy for women workers, tax refund for wage earners, health care coverage for displaced workers, a reformed public employment program for displaced and unemployed women, and moratorium on demolitions and evictions;

WHEREAS, she also echoed her party's call for the reversal of liberalization, deregulation and privatization policies which women blame for the high prices of goods and the deterioration of public services. Miranda said women workers are disproportionately affected by the ongoing mass layoffs, work rotation, and other flexibility schemes;

WHEREAS, to illustrate the issue, Marites Manjares of the United Cavite Workers Association reportedly said that there were allegedly more layoffs in the Cavite Economic Zone in the town of Rosario, and the overwhelming majority of those laid off and about to be retrenched are women since they are workers in electronics factories;

WHEREAS, Manjares enumerated the supposedly recently affected electronics factories as: Clarion will retrench more than 200 in March, P. Imes laid off more than 100 last February but the separation pay to be released only this month, Dyna Image cut 400 jobs last January, and N.T. Philippines laid off 400 workers last December;

WHEREAS, the government must provide the safety net of social protection so that workers and the poor do not rely exclusively on the coping mechanism of family relations, and women are not weighed down by the heavier double burden;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported proposals to alleviate the impact of global economic crisis on women workers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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