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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 940

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION'S REPORT THAT THE ASIAN REGION WILL EXPERIENCE AN
UPSURGE IN UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

WHEREAS, various media outlets reported on 19 February 2009 that the International Labor Organization (ILO) predicted that more than 140 million people in Asia could be plunged into poverty due to the global economic crisis;

WHEREAS, the ILO also reportedly said that the region's unemployment rate would increase to 5.1 percent with the influx of 7.2 million jobless people entering the labor market, in addition to the crisis-induced 23 million lay-offs;

WHEREAS, the ILO anticipates that the number of unemployed in Asia can increase up to 113 million, which is 22.3 million more than last year;

WHEREAS, with the present economic situation of decreasing opportunities and incomes, the youth and women are expected to face the greater threat of losing or not finding jobs, as the youth are at least three times more likely to become unemployed than adults according to ILO's statistics;

WHEREAS, according to the international organization's report, migrant workers with short-term contracts as well as women working in small- and medium-sized factories and firms are particularly vulnerable to lay-offs;

WHEREAS, according to Labor Secretary Marianito Roque, the economic crisis could cause around 200,000 Filipino workers here and abroad to lose their jobs this year;

WHEREAS, the labor secretary also said that about 30,000 domestic employees and 5,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have lost their jobs since September when the global financial crisis erupted;

WHEREAS, ILO officials say that its projections show the risk of children being forced to withdraw from school in order to work and support their families;

WHEREAS, ILO officials also stated that growth experienced by Asian markets in the past was not matched by broad-based gains in real wages which led to sharp inequalities in many countries, and that the situation is quickly evolving into an employment and social crisis;

WHEREAS, the international organization linked the impending unemployment crisis to the upsurge of social unrest in the Asian region, prompting governments to execute immediate action on the issue;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government, particularly the legislature and the Office of the Secretary of Labor, should seek to reinforce existing labor and labor-related laws policies to address the situations as forecasted by the ILO;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved in the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the International Labor Organization's report that the Asian region will experience an upsurge in unemployment due to the global economic crisis.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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