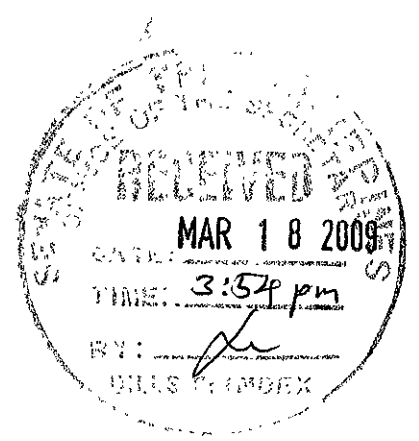


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



S E N A T E

P. S. Res. No. 943

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DISCRIMINATION AND REJECTION OF FILIPINO NURSES BY THE NURSING COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND WITH THE END IN VIEW OF SUBMITTING RECOMMENDATIONS GEARED TOWARD IMPROVING THE NURSING EDUCATION AND PROFESSION IN THE COUNTRY

Whereas, there are about 26,000 Filipinos residing in New Zealand, in which approximately 300-500 are nurses contributing services to the New Zealand health care system;

Whereas, a news article in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) dated February 12, 2009 reported the statement of Marcos Punsalang, Philippine consul general in New Zealand that there are hundreds of Filipino nurses in New Zealand who are waiting for the approval of their registration so they could already apply for employment;

Whereas, GMANews.TV confirmed that the New Zealand's Nursing Council have rejected registering Filipino nurses who failed to comply with the new, stiffer policy requirements which the Council imposes to nurses applying for work in New Zealand;

Whereas, the Nursing Council provided a tougher process of registration including raising the standards for the English language test requirement and generally disqualifying applicants who took the nursing curriculum for only a span of less than four years, as published in a report in the New Zealand Herald;

Whereas, under the new policy of the Council, applicants who took shortened nursing courses are advised to enroll for additional two to three more semesters before they qualify for registration in New Zealand, with which a lot of Filipinos just lose the opportunity because they could not afford to pay around 20,000 NZ dollars a year for the required additional semesters;

Whereas, the new policy stemmed from the apprehension of the Nursing Council in the deterioration of the quality of Filipino nurses exported abroad as health service providers, likely that the New Zealand Nursing Council is concerned:

- in the rapid increase of the schools which offer nursing programs parallel to the increase from 30,000 students who took up nursing in 2004 which ballooned to 450,00 students in 2008
- in the abruptly bloated increase of students which might account for the compromised quality of nursing courses being offered in the Philippines
- that many Filipinos have been taking nursing as second tertiary qualification to finish the course faster along with the fear of the Council that these nurses may have not been trained rigorously enough
- on the proliferation of schools offering nursing programs, which burdens the Council in the assessment of the adequacy of the theory and practice imbibed by the nurses in order for them to qualify for educational equivalence
- that the issues of the quality of Filipino nurses have been aggravated by the alleged cheating scandal in the Nurse Licensure Exam of 2006 which proclaimed 67,220 nursing graduates who passed;

Whereas, a case of a qualified nurse disclosed in a PDI article on February 18, 2009 indicated that she has been denied by the Nursing Council for registration although she has already obtained a nursing degree and has shelled out money amounting to \$8000 to a recruitment agency in hope that she could land a job as a registered nurse in New Zealand;

Whereas, apparently, the nurse was told by the Council that she is illegible to be registered anywhere albeit the qualifications she had obtained;

Whereas, Migrante Aotearoa New Zealand, an organization promoting the welfare and defending the rights of Filipinos overseas and of their families, seeks to defend the case of a second courser nurse who has already been working in New Zealand as she waits for the result of her registration under the old policy, and was also deliberately rejected by the Council even after the applicant has passed the required English test;

Whereas, Migrante Aotearoa seeks support on the apparent discrimination of Filipino nurses by the new policy introduced by the New Zealand's Nursing Council which belittled the quality of education produced by the nursing schools in the country;

Whereas, there have been petitions raised by Filipino nurses and concerned citizens calling for the fair assessment of Filipino nurses applying for registration in New Zealand as supported with the assurance by Philippine consul general Punsalang stating that nursing programs in the country cultivate high quality and impose strict standards in the curriculum;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development and Foreign Relations and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported discrimination and rejection of Filipino nurses by the Nursing Council of New Zealand with the end in view of submitting recommendations geared towards improving the nursing education and profession in country.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR