

SENATE  
P.S. Res 351

RECEIVED



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Introduced by Senator Villar

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**RESOLUTION URGING AND RECOMMENDING TO THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, ITS AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OWNED- AND CONTROLLED-CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT MECHANISMS GEARED TO ASSIST RETRENCHED AND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, NEW GRADUATES, WORKING STUDENTS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP WORKERS' ASSISTANCE CENTERS, GENERATION OF SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS AND SEMINARS, EXPANSION OF THE STUDENT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME AND SIMILAR HELP APPROACHES**

Whereas, social justice is the cornerstone of the 1987 Philippine Constitution as manifested in the following provisions:

In Article II, Declaration of Policies and Principles:

- Section 9. The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.
- Section 10. The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development

In Article XIII, Social Justice and Human Rights

- Section 1. The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political

inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good.

To this end, the State shall regulate the acquisition, ownership, use, and disposition of property and its increments.

- Section 2. The promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

Whereas, there are numerous guarantees in the 1987 Philippine Constitution and statutes promoting the rights and welfare of workers:

- Article II, Section 18 The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.
- Article XIII, Section 3, which provides, “The State shall afford full protection of labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.”

Whereas, it has been said that, “the Philippine is not immune, but very susceptible to the global financial crisis, that the detrimental domestic effects will deepen as the country’s main economic fuel of remittances starts to slow and decline and that the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) job losses will increase as less than 5 % of OFWs are employed in recession-proof occupations”<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, in the case of new graduates, per Labor Secretary Marianito Roque, around 500,000 fresh college graduates are joining the labor force and that it may take five to six months for the country’s economy to absorb the fresh graduates as well as the 180,000 new jobless Filipinos estimated by the National Statistics Office as of January 2009<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas, the economic crisis continued to claim jobs particularly in the export processing zones in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) Region;

Whereas, there are reports that up to 40,000 Filipino seamen will be losing their jobs due to the slump in world trade<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas, the situations depicted in the preceding paragraphs are aggravating the continuing poverty in the country with the Philippines' unemployment rate rising to 7.7 per cent in January as tens of thousands of Filipinos lost their jobs or failed to find work amid the global economic crisis and

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<sup>1</sup> Loreto B Soriano in a study, “The OFW Economic Engine: Philippine Reality and Required Reform Arising from the Global Financial Crisis”, February 2009

<sup>2</sup> Data from the article, “Government bracing for rise in unemployment” by Jerome Aning, [www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net), March 18, 2009

<sup>3</sup> “Filipino Seamen To Lose Jobs Due to Economic Crisis”, [www.s.pangonilo.com](http://www.s.pangonilo.com), March 18, 2009

which unemployment rate was up from the 7.4 per cent recorded in the same month last year<sup>4</sup>;

Whereas, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority in Rosario, Cavite has implemented the One-Stop Workers Assistance Center, which seeks to help retrenched workers look for other jobs or alternative sources of income;

Whereas, aside from the establishment of one-stop workers assistance centers, the government should practice thrift and austere expenditure and should encourage generation of savings which may be utilized for the employment of part-time workers;

Whereas, the following other mechanisms, among others, may be adopted:

1. the creation of mobile training and livelihood projects that aim to provide small business/entrepreneurial seminars plus start-up capital;
2. the expansion of the existing student apprenticeship programs and its implementation synchronized with the Student Loan program;

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippine To Urge and To Recommend to the Executive Department, its agencies and instrumentalities including government-owned and controlled corporations and local government units to adopt mechanisms geared to assist retrenched and unemployed workers, new graduates, working students and out-of-school youth including but not limited to the establishment of One-stop Workers Assistance Centers, generation of short- and long- term employment opportunities, livelihood trainings and seminars, expansion of the student apprenticeship program and other programs that promote alternative sources of income and similar help approaches.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR

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<sup>4</sup> Business news as reported in [www.monstersandcritics.com/business/news](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/business/news)