

9 MAR 31 AM 12:5

SENATE

RECEIVED BY



PSR No. 955

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

RESOLUTION

**STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE DEMEANING *HK MAGAZINE* ARTICLE
"THE WAR AT HOME" AND ITS WRITER CHIP TSAO, URGING THE DEPARTMENT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO LODGE A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST AGAINST THE SAID
PUBLICATION AND ASKING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT
AGENCY TO LOOK INTO THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO
WORKERS IN HONG KONG**

WHEREAS, Chip Tsao, a Hong Kong-based columnist-broadcaster wrote on March 27, 2009 an article entitled "The War At Home" in his column for HK Magazine;

WHEREAS, that said article contained derogatory remarks and racial slur against Filipinos in general and domestic helpers in particular, in relation to the dispute over the Spratly Islands;

WHEREAS, Tsao's column belittled the Philippine government's sovereignty over the so-called Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) within the disputed Spratly Islands, stating that the issue is beyond reproach, claiming that "there are more than 130,000 Filipina maids working as \$3,580-a-month cheap labor in Hong Kong. [And] as a nation of servants, you don't flex your muscles at your master, from whom you earn most of your bread and butter";

WHEREAS, Tsao currently employs a domestic assistant named "Louisa" whom he verbally abused and threatened "that if a war breaks out between the Philippines and China, I would have to end her employment and send her straight home, because I would not risk the crime of treason for sponsoring an enemy of the state by paying her to wash my toilet and clean my windows 16 hours a day.";

WHEREAS, Tsao also stated in his article that some of his friends started "indoctrinating" their Filipino domestic helpers, making them shout "China, Madam/Sir" loudly whenever they hear the word "Spratly";

WHEREAS, for the protection of migrant workers, the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency should look into the said allegations, not only confined to forms of physical abuse but also emotional abuse such as public humiliation and verbal harassment;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to strongly condemn the demeaning HK Magazine article "The War At Home" and its writer Chip Tsao, urge the Department of Foreign Affairs to lodge a diplomatic protest against the said publication and ask the Philippine Overseas employment Agency to look into the working conditions of Overseas Filipino Workers in Hong Kong.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI