

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1344

REC'D

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING NUMBER OF RUNAWAY OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DRAFTING MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD THE WELFARE OF OUR OFWS

Whereas, Migrante-Middle East said the number of runaway and distressed OFWs, particularly domestics, usually increase during Ramadan, as many non-Muslim migrant workers suffer from overwork and near-starvation;

Whereas, a report by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) revealed a 23-percent jump in the number of repatriated OFWs in the first seven months of the year compared to the same period last year, from 4,275 runaway OFWs in 2008 to 5,267 in 2009;

Whereas, OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon also confirmed that the number of OFWs working in Muslim countries who escape from abusive employers usually peak during Ramadan;

Whereas, every day during Ramadan, a month of fasting, Muslims around the world get up before dawn to eat sahur, the pre-dawn meal, then they perform the fajr prayer;

Whereas, Ramadan prohibits eating and drinking before the call to prayer starts and until the fourth prayer of the day called Maghrib;

Whereas, Muslims are only allowed to eat and drink from the time the sun sets until the next morning's fajr prayer call;

Whereas, OFWs, who are generally non-Muslims, find it difficult to cope with the rigors of fasting since their jobs entail a lot of physical work ,making them prone to exhaustion: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development and other appropriate committees to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the increasing number of runaway Overseas Filipino Workers especially during the holy month of Ramadan, with the end in view of drafting measures to safeguard the welfare of our OFWs.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator