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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1400

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ACTIVE RECRUITMENT OF  
OVERSEAS JOBS APPLICANTS BY RECRUITMENT AGENCIES WITH  
CANCELLED OR SUSPENDED LICENSES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 states: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare;

WHEREAS, The *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported in its 17 September 2009 article entitled "Penalized Recruiters Still Recruiting," that recruitment agencies with cancelled or suspended licenses are still actively recruiting for overseas jobs;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) alerted job applicants to check out the status of their recruitment agencies for their own protection;

WHEREAS, according to the POEA, for 2008 and the first six months of 2009 alone, 76 licenses were suspended and 57 agencies were fined as a result of recruitment violations;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that according to the POEA, the licenses of the agencies were either cancelled or suspended for charging placement fees that were more than the allowable amounts or the commission of serious recruitment offenses;

WHEREAS, recruitment offenses include the deployment of underage workers, misrepresentation, recruitment of workers for jobs that expose them to public health hazards or immorality or those that trample upon the dignity of the Republic of the Philippines, unauthorized transfer or change of ownership, and the charging or collection of placement fees even while the host countries prohibit such practice;

WHEREAS, the local government units should be enjoined to support the efforts of the POEA to alert the public regarding recruiters who are without license to do business;

WHEREAS, the State must also coordinate with private sectors that organize job fairs and other recruitment activities to ensure that unsuspecting job seekers will not be victims of these recruitment agencies operating without licenses;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported active recruitment of overseas jobs applicants by recruitment agencies with cancelled or suspended licenses.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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