

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

NOV -3 2013

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1436



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs)

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 provides: “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*, in an article entitled “Caregivers in Saudi Complain of Abuse”, dated 15 October 2009, reported that three more groups of Filipino caregivers working in a children’s rehabilitation center in Saudi Arabia have decided to stop working due to alleged salary non-payment, reduction and illegal deduction;

WHEREAS, the article claimed that the more than 60 workers—recruited by Annasban firm and deployed to the rehabilitation centers—joined their colleagues, also Filipinos, who also stopped working last month due to alleged contract violations and poor working conditions;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the new group sought the Philippine government’s help through the overseas Filipino workers’ (OFWs) organization in Saudi Arabia, the Kapatiran sa Gitnang Silangan (KGS), the Riyadh chapter of Migrante-Middle East;

WHEREAS, according to John Leonard Monterona, Migrante-Mideast regional coordinator, KGS president Eric Jocson has already referred the complaints of the three groups with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Office in Riyadh, and that POLO-Riyadh has been negotiating with Annasban and the owners of the rehabilitation centers for the original group of 23 complaining OFWs;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that workers from the second group of complainants complained of two to three months delay of their salaries, illegal deductions and non-payment for overtime, and that there was a third group complaining of the same offenses;

WHEREAS, Monterona however accused one of the employers of vindictiveness after the OFWs in the original group reported to him that on the same day, some of them were transferred to other accommodations and their mobile phones confiscated;

WHEREAS, this report needs the immediate attention of all government agencies concerned so that if the allegations were proven to be true, preventive measures could be put into place to protect the lives, honor, and dignity of our overseas Filipino workers, especially those of our female OFWs;

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 abuses committed against our overseas Filipino workers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/cdr