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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Resolution No. 932

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO LOOK INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022, PARTICULAR TO THE REINTEGRATION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES OF THE NATIONAL REINTEGRATION CENTER FOR OFWS AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR THE EFFICIENT RETRAINING AND LASTING REINTEGRATION OF OUR RETURNING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS.

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 3 of the Philippine Constitution states that, "The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all";

WHEREAS, Section 2 (a) of Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended by Republic Act No. 10022, states as matter of public policy, that, "In the pursuit of an independent foreign policy and while considering national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest and the right to self-determination paramount in its relations with other states, the State shall, at all times, uphold the dignity of its citizens whether in country or overseas, in general, and Filipino migrant workers, in particular, x x x";

WHEREAS, Section 17 thereof established the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) for the reintegration of returning OFWs and serve as a promotion house for their local employment;

WHEREAS, Section 18 thereof requires the NRCO to (a) coordinate with appropriate stakeholders, service providers and relevant international organizations for the promotion, development and the full utilization of overseas Filipino worker returnees and their potentials; (b) institute a computer-based information system on OFW returnees accessible to all local recruitment agencies and employers, for employment; and (c) develop capacity-building programs for the returning OFWs and their families, among others;¹

WHEREAS, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, the NRCO, together with Overseas Workers Welfare Association (OWWA) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), developed training and retraining programs for returning OFWs.

¹ Section 18, sub-paragraphs (b), (c), and (g), respectively.

WHEREAS, in spite of the abovementioned provisions making reintegration possible for returning OFWs through retraining programs, livelihood programs, and networking for local employment, among others, many OFW returnees still supposedly find themselves without any means to support their family as local employment have become impossible;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing, there is a need to look into the reintegration programs developed by the NRCO and other relevant government agencies such as the Overseas Workers Welfare Association (OWWA) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) vis-à-vis its coverage, exposure, and level of effectivity considering the volume of OFW returnees who apply for reintegration and who are benefited by it;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to look into the implementation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 8042 otherwise known as The Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended by Republic Act No. 10022, particular to the reintegration of OFWs, with a view to strengthening the policies, procedures, and practices of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs and other relevant government agencies for the efficient retraining and lasting reintegration of our returning Overseas Filipino Workers.

Adopted,


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR