

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



14 NOV 12 P3:38

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1007

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DOUBLE VISA SCHEME OF RECRUITMENT
AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 1 provides: "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, Republic Act No. 10022, Section 6, defines "illegal recruitment" in Paragraph (b): "To furnish or publish any false notice or information or document in relation to recruitment or employment";

WHEREAS, philstar.com reported on 2 November 2014 that Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) chief Hans Cacdac said a number of Middle East-bound Filipino workers were prevented from leaving the country after being found to have several visas;

WHEREAS, Cacdac claimed the POEA also issued preventive suspension orders against three recruitment agencies for using the double visa scheme in worker deployment;

WHEREAS, Cacdac said recruitment firms Al-Walih International Manpower Services Co., CAZ International Inc., Hiro Global Manpower Inc. appeared to be using the double visa scheme to bypass protective mechanisms set by the government;

WHEREAS, the scheme, usually results in the abuse and exploitation of household service workers, Cacdac claimed, citing the experience of those who took shelter at the Migrant Workers and Filipino Resource Center in Dubai;

WHEREAS, laws regulating the recruitment and placement of Filipino workers do not specifically provide for a penalty for the scheme of giving double or even multiple visas to Filipino workers to be deployed abroad;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to review and strengthen existing legislation in order to deter recruitment firms from using the double visa scheme;

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 double visa scheme of recruitment agencies.

Adopted,

[Signature of Miriam Defensor Santiago]
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/icb