

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

Senate  
Office of the Secretary

15 FEB 10 P1 53

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1168

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT 20 FILIPINO SEAFARERS WERE FOUND  
DEPRIVED OF FOOD IN A DETAINED SHIP ABROAD

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11, provides "The state values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, The *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on 2 February 2015 that 20 Filipino seafarers were found deprived of food while aboard a ship berthed at Port Kembla, in New South Wales, Australia;

WHEREAS, the news said the ship Bulk Brasil, operated by Japanese company Keymax, was carrying Australian cargo bound for the United Kingdom when it was detained by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on January 20;

WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* quoted Dean Summers, coordinator of International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), as saying that aside from being denied access to food, the Filipino seafarers have also not been paid since September;

WHEREAS, Summers further claimed that the Japanese company has signed an agreement with the ITF to pay the Filipino seafarers an International Minimum Standard but have refused to honor the agreement as of the date of the report;

WHEREAS, it is mentioned in the report that the Filipino seafarers are afraid to complain about their plight because it will be harder for them to get a new job and a fear of being abandoned;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to protect the welfare of Filipino workers, including those employed abroad;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must establish a mechanism allowing Filipino seafarers to lodge complaints against unfair practices by their employers abroad;

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 report that 20 Filipino seafarers were found deprived of food in a detained ship abroad.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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