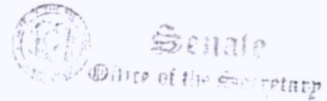



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'17 AUG -1 A10 :22

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 450

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF OUR
DOMESTIC HELPERS WORKING ABROAD WITH THE END VIEW OF
ESTABLISHING OR STRENGTHENING THE POLICIES AND MECHANISMS FOR
PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING

WHEREAS, an article¹ by Filipino-American and Pulitzer prize-winning reporter Alex Tizon, who recently passed away, made rounds on social media as it featured the story of Eudocia Tomas Pulido. Eudocia or "Lola" was, as the late Tizon stated, a "slave" who served his family in the United States of America for 56 years until her passing in 2011;

WHEREAS, the story, which sparked debates both locally and internationally, revealed the hardships that Eudocia Pulido endured through the years of her service as domestic help for the Tizons, including harsh and inhumane working and sleeping conditions, unpaid labor, and unfavorable treatment from Alex Tizon's parents;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, the Kasambahay Law enacted in 2013 ensures the protection of our domestic workers from any form of abuse, provision of basic necessities including adequate meals and humane sleeping arrangements, proper compensation and other benefits for services rendered, and freedom to access further education and training. This law, however, is not applicable to domestic workers serving in foreign countries;

WHEREAS, according to the International Labour Organization, a United Nations agency focused on labor issues such as working standards, social protection, and work opportunities, domestic workers are especially prone to abuse and exploitation from their employers. The International Domestic Workers Federation has further reported that employers worldwide that withhold the wages of domestic workers illegally profit an overall 8 billion dollars a year;²

WHEREAS, despite our government being considered as "one of the most progressive and proactive when it comes to fighting for justice for overseas domestic workers"³ as protective measures have been put in place, incidents of abused domestic helpers are still rampant as there have been reported cases of physical and mental violence against them in countries such as Hong Kong, Kuwait, and even Singapore;

¹ **My Family's Slave.** <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/06/lolas-story/524490/>

² **Beyond Survival: Organizing to End Human Trafficking of Domestic Workers.**
<http://www.idwfed.org/en/resources/beyond-survival-organizing-to-end-human-trafficking-of-domestic-workers>

³ **The vanished: the Filipino domestic workers who disappear behind closed doors.**
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/oct/24/the-vanished-filipino-domestic-workers-working-abroad>

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 10801 or the new charter of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the agency shall "facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Labor Code of the Philippines and the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 concerning the responsibility of the government to promote the well-being of OFWs.";

WHEREAS, while there are Philippine Overseas Labor Offices or POLOs, which serves as the Department of Labor and Employment's overseas arm in the implementation of labor policies and programs for the welfare and interest of overseas Filipino workers, there is a need to evaluate the effectiveness and capability of the offices and its programs;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the working conditions of our domestic helpers working abroad with the end view of establishing or strengthening the policies and mechanisms for protecting their rights, safety, and well-being.

Adopted.



SONNY ANGARA