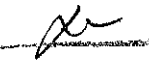


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

5 JAN 12 2005

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 154

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO URGE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE REPRESENTATION TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND APPEAL FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO WITH RESPECT TO JAPAN'S IMMIGRATION POLICY AFFECTING OUR OVERSEAS PERFORMING ARTISTS AS IT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR OVERSEAS PERFORMING ARTISTS AND WILL CAUSE THE COUNTRY HUGE LOSSES IN ANNUAL REMITTANCES

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution states that "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.";

WHEREAS, Japan's new immigration policy deleted the provision which recognizes government certification of the performing artist as a basis for the issuance of entertainers visa. Under its new immigration policy, which will take effect on January 20, 2005, only those who have studied for two years at an educational institution specializing in the performing arts or those who have a two year experience in a legitimate performance venue outside Japan will be granted entertainers visa;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government recognizes and respects the right of the Japanese government to enact new immigration measures as an exercise of its sovereignty;

WHEREAS, the immediate application of the same would adversely affect not only *Filipino overseas performing artists (OPAs) in Japan* but also the Philippine economy as it is highly dependent on the remittances of overseas Filipino workers to keep its economy afloat;

WHEREAS, some 80,000 Filipino performing artists in Japan and over 200,000 Filipinos with businesses depending or catering to the entertainment sector, such as costume makers, shoe manufacturers, training centers, and travel agencies, will be adversely affected or may even be displaced by Japan's new immigration policy. Moreover, families and dependents of these performing artists would feel the worst effects of a possible decline in the OPAs' deployment;

WHEREAS, Japan is the country's third largest source of overseas remittances with overseas foreign workers there turning in through the banks an average of about US\$ 283.25 million per year (P15.86 billion) during the last seven years, from 1997 to 2003. It must be noted that the same merely represents remittances through formal banking channels and excludes that made through non-formal banking channels;

WHEREAS, by reason of the above-stated effects of Japan's new immigration policy, the status quo should be maintained to avert the massive displacement of Filipino OPAs concerned as this will result to serious economic problems not only to their families and dependents but also to businesses depending or catering to the entertainment sector. Its biggest blow would be on the billions in annual remittances that the country stands to lose from Filipino OPAs in Japan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to express the sense of the Senate to urge the Philippine government to make representation to the Japanese government and appeal for humanitarian reasons for the maintenance of the status quo with respect to Japan's immigration policy affecting our overseas performing artists as it will adversely affect our overseas performing artists and will cause the country huge losses in annual remittances.

Adopted,


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.
Senator