

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**Senate**  
Office of the Secretary

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 202

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RECEIVED BY:                     

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**RESOLUTION**  
**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE**  
**PROLIFERATION OF ON-LINE SLAVE MARKET APPS IN THE GULF**  
**ENSLAVING FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS INCLUDING FILIPINOS AND**  
**CALLING FOR AN ENTIRE GOVERNMENT APPROACH HEADED BY THE DFA**  
**AND THE DOLE FOR A FAST AND RESOLUTE ACTION TO STOP AND**  
**PREVENT FILIPINO DOMESTIC WORKERS FROM BECOMING MODERN-DAY**  
**SLAVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST REINFORCING AND STRENGTHENING THE**  
**EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN OF OUR OFWS ESPECIALLY**  
**THOSE THAT DO NOT FOLLOW RULES MEANT TO PROTECT THEM**

**WHEREAS**, in a BBC report entitled "Maids for Sale: Silicon Valley's Online Slave Market" the existence of online modern-day day slave market through the apps hosted on Google and Apple Store known as "4sale", "Haraj" and Instagram was exposed;

**WHEREAS**, through the said apps various violations of local and international laws protecting human rights and labor standards law such as prohibition on underage labor, kafala system, non-payment of wages, and human trafficking are being committed against migrant workers coming from various countries;

**WHEREAS**, among those victimized by this modern-day form of slavery are Filipino domestic workers who have well-established international and national rights against slavery and human trafficking;

**WHEREAS**, Article 4 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights states "no one shall be held in slavery or servitude, slavery in all of its forms should be eliminated";

**WHEREAS**, Article XIII Section 3 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that "The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized...";

**NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Senate to express its STRONG CONDEMNATION on the proliferation and use of on-line slave market apps affecting a number of Filipino domestic workers in Gulf countries, calling for an entire government approach headed by the DFA and the DOLE for a fast and resolute action to stop and prevent Filipino domestic workers from becoming modern-day slaves in the Middle East particularly by: (1) reinforcing and strengthening the education and awareness campaign of our OFWs especially those that do not follow the rules meant to protect them, (2) tightening of borders by the BOC to prevent undocumented workers from being deployed, (3) intensifying Anti-human trafficking campaign by the DOJ and the BOC, (4) assistance and repatriation by the DFA of distressed Filipino domestic workers subject to this modern-day slavery and also, (5) strengthening the collaboration of the government, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) and other NGOs in assisting distressed OFWs to bring perpetrators of this modern day slavery to justice.

*Adopted,*



**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator