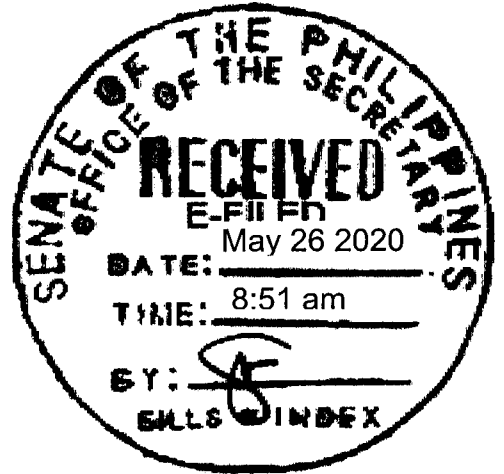


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 417

Introduced by Senator FRANKLIN M. DRILON

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ADEQUATENESS AND SUFFICIENCY OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION'S ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1 WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution provides: "The State shall
2 afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized,
3 and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all."

4 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that Overseas Filipino
5 Workers (OFWs) remittances reached US \$33.9 Billion, which accounted for 9.3% and
6 7.8% of the gross domestic product and gross national income, respectively;

7 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has gravely affected Filipino workers
8 abroad, with about 250,000 OFWs requesting cash assistance from DOLE and around
9 80,000 repatriated OFWs without prospects of re-employment;

10 WHEREAS, the mandatory RT-PCR COVID-19 testing and 14-day quarantine for
11 all returning OFWs has resulted in 24,000 OFWs being stranded in government
12 quarantine facilities – some being quarantined for more than two months now due to
13 acute delays in the release of test results and certificates;

14 WHEREAS, under the Republic Act No. 10801, otherwise known as the Overseas
15 Workers Welfare Administration Act, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
16 (OWWA) is mandated to serve and promote the rights, interest and welfare of the
17 OFWs and their families;

18 WHEREAS, the OWWA has reported that it has "facilitated" the release of a
19 DOLE-funded financial assistance to displaced land-based and sea-based workers and
20 has provided food packages, transportation, and accommodation for repatriated and
21 stranded OFWs during the Luzon Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ);

1 WHEREAS, the OWWA’s reported assistance to OFWs is clearly insufficient and
2 dismal considering that there is a P20 Billion OWWA Fund principally sourced from
3 OFW membership contributions, which could and should be utilized to help OFWs
4 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing them adequate financial, livelihood
5 and other assistance;

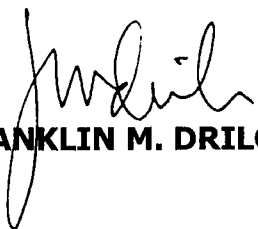
6 WHEREAS, the OWWA Fund was specifically created for the purpose of
7 providing social and welfare services to OFWs, such as insurance coverage, legal
8 assistance, placement assistance, remittance services, skills and career development
9 services, and development, support and finance projects;

10 WHEREAS, Section 38 of R.A. No. 10801 mandates the OWWA to use the
11 OWWA Fund to serve the welfare of member-OFWs and their families;

12 WHEREAS, aside from the OWWA Fund, the OWWA has a budget of
13 P1,588,778,000 under the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020: Now,
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED by the Senate to direct the Committee on Labor and Employment
16 to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the adequateness and sufficiency of the
17 Overseas Workers Welfare Administration’s Assistance to Overseas Filipino Workers
18 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,


FRANKLIN M. DRILON