


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE
P.S. Res. 247

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED EXCESSIVE COLLECTION OF OFW PROCESSING FEE BY THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF FORMULATING A MORE CARING, MEANINGFUL AND TRULY LABOR-FRIENDLY SOCIAL LEGISLATION FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution ordained the prominence of labor rights as it ensconced, “[t]he State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all” (Article XIII, Section 3);

Whereas, the Overseas Filipino Workers are now considered the biggest partner of the country’s economic development with their remittances accounting as the premier reason for the continuing appreciation of the Philippine peso;

Whereas, the Philippine OFWs, in the area of human resources, is acknowledged as shining exemplars of persistence, hard work, competence and skills;

Whereas, it has been reported that the OFWs are paying more than Php 250 more in processing fees when their contracts are processed with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) as the agency is charging them and using a *non-flexible and non-sensitive to exchange rate* fee of US\$ 25.00;

Whereas, in a report made by the Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI) through its former President Lito Soriano, the OFWs are being short-changed in their payment of mandatory Php 1,275 fee instead of paying the required US\$ 25 required for contracts processed by POEA;

Whereas, the contract fee is required from all OFWs, whether newly-hired, re-hired or balikbayans;

Whereas, the Php 1,275.00 is based on the exchange rate of Php 51 pegged to a dollar;

Whereas, the over collection (if the exchange rate is USD 1:PHP 45, the excess is Php 150; whilst if the exchange rate is USD 1:PHP 41, the excess is Php 250) is an indicia of the labor agency's callous indifference to the hardships and plight of OFWs who need to toil hard labor overseas;


Whereas, the collection must be totalled, inventoried and appropriately accounted for whether the same has redounded to the welfare of the OFWs and their families;

Whereas, the processing fee collection and management must be corrected and the same adjusted to consider contemporaneous exchange rate;

Whereas, the policy must be revisited as it is smack of heartlessness and injustice and must necessarily be corrected: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources and other appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported excessive collection of OFW processing fee by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration with the end in view of formulating a more caring, meaningful and truly-labor friendly social legislation for Overseas Filipino Workers

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR