


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

6 APR 23 2010

SENATE  
P.S. Res. 366

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOR RECRUITMENT, ANTI-HUMAN SMUGGLING AND IMMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF CHARTING MEANINGFUL AND TRULY LABOR-FRIENDLY SOCIAL LEGISLATION FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution ordained the following guarantees:

1. "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare." (Art. II, Sec. 18);

2. "The 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 (OFWs) 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 are acknowledged as labor of persistence, hard work, competence and skills;

Whereas, as of the latest statistics, there are 7,945,252 overseas Filipinos (Estimated Number of Overseas Filipinos as Reported by Philippine Posts as of June 2007);

Whereas, as reported, the OFWs remittances in 2007 coursed through the formal banking institutions totalled more than \$ 14.7 billion;

Whereas, a comprehensive review and assessment on the implementation of existing labor recruitment, anti-human smuggling and immigration laws and policies are needed taking into consideration the following issues:

- the reported rampant syndicated human smuggling activities;
- the doubling and increasing number of incarcerated OFWs in various countries particularly in the Middle East;
- the continuing number of reported maltreatment and abuse of OFWs cases ; the immigration,
- illegal recruitment and exodus of even young and barely legal Filipinos using the “escort system” and utilization of spurious and farce travel dossiers, in circumvention of the country’s immigration laws and others;

Whereas, there is a seemingly lax implementation and trend towards compromise of our laws and policies on illegal recruitment, anti-human smuggling and immigration in exchange for the economic benefits and dollar remittances of the OFWs;

Whereas, it should be stated that illegal recruitment is a crime considered as an offense involving economic sabotage when committed against three (3) or more persons as defined under the Labor Code of the Philippines;

Whereas, the review and assessment of our policies in the issues at hand must be conducted immediately bringing full realization to the objectives of the constitutional provisions on truly meaningful and caring labor environment; 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 a comprehensive review and assessment, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of labor recruitment, anti-human smuggling and immigration laws and policies with the end-in-view of charting meaningful and truly-labor firmely social legislation for Overseas Filipino Workers

Adopted,

  
**MANNY VILLAR**