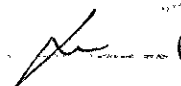


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
 OF THE PHILIPPINES)
 Second Regular Session)

8 SEP 17 2012

SENATE
 P. S. R. No. 647

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
 IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE TRAINING
 FACILITIES FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION AND TO REVIEW THE NURSING
 CURRICULUM TO ENSURE THE GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF FILIPINO
 NURSES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, states, "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development";

WHEREAS, Article 13, Section 1 of the same states, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all";

WHEREAS, Article 13, Section 4, paragraph 1, of the same states, "The State recognizes the complementary roles of public and private institutions in the educational system and shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions";

WHEREAS, according to the report of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, dated 1 September 2008, Vice President of the Association of Manpower Exporters Jackson Gan allegedly said that there is no surplus of 400,000 nurses in the country, but a dearth of qualified nurses that employers abroad would hire. According to him, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) allegedly has a standing, unfilled 20,000 job orders for nurses to the Middle East, Singapore, and Europe aside from the number of unfulfilled job orders last year;

WHEREAS, Gan also reportedly said that the POEA is only able to fill up 50 percent of the job orders made by countries such as Saudi Arabia, Norway and Belgium, which continue to post job orders for nurses to work in their countries;

WHEREAS, according to Gan, most Philippine nurses do not qualify because they allegedly are not trained, lack the two years experience in big hospitals or are not familiar with modern technology used in hospitals abroad. He also alleged that the other reason why there seems to be a surplus of unemployed nurses in the country is that nursing graduates only want to work in the US; they usually turn down offers to work in the Middle East even when competitive salaries and benefits are offered;

WHEREAS, Gan also alleged that most modern private hospitals in Metro Manila have on standby pools of nurses who want to work even as trainee nurses for free just to get the experience required by foreign hospitals;

WHEREAS, Gan suggested that the government increase the budget of the Department of Health for the upgrading and upsizing of provincial or regional hospitals all over the country to give Filipino nurses the training and experience required for local employment and deployment abroad;

WHEREAS, Gan also allegedly said that with the rise of business process outsourcing in the Philippines, qualified nurses would rather work as call center agents or medical transcriptionists that earn Php15,000 a month or more, which is beyond the average salary of a nurse in a private or government hospital in the Philippines. The average salary of nurses in the Philippines is Php10,000 and below;

WHEREAS, the government should aggressively campaign and advertise job offers from other countries aside from those from the US and the United Kingdom. However, it is also imperative that the legislature ensure the safety of nurses working abroad by drafting provisions that will see to it they are not abused;

WHEREAS, to raise the standards of the nursing practice in the Philippines, and to remedy underemployment in the nursing profession, nursing schools should be compelled to provide only the best education by setting up globally competitive technology in their campuses;

WHEREAS, through consultations with hospital officials, medical experts and education officials, among others, the proper government agency should review the nursing curriculum and see if any revisions are needed for our nurses to become more competitive in the global setting;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the need to improve the training facilities for the nursing profession and to review the nursing curriculum to ensure the global competitiveness of Filipino nurses.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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