

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 696

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON CREATING MIGRATION POLICIES THAT WILL  
ADDRESS THE ALLEGED BRAIN DRAIN PROBLEM IN THE PHILIPPINES.

WHEREAS, the Constitution Article 2, Section 9 states that “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all”;

WHEREAS, the Abs-Cbn News website reported on 16 September 2008 that experts from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) during a press conference presented policy recommendations that could help the government handle the development impact of migration;

WHEREAS, according to the PIDS, the government should create policies to reduce the high economic cost of losing skilled Filipino workers to foreign employment by making balikbayans, tourists and retirees come to and invest in the country;

WHEREAS, PIDS President Josef Yap allegedly said that remittances sent by overseas Filipino workers could be used to bring more investments to the country, which could be done by giving them more financial instruments and teaching them where they can invest.

WHEREAS, Dr. Fernando Aldaba, chair of the Economics Department at the Ateneo de Manila University highlighted different ways to maximize the development impact of migration. One is by investing in philanthropy, where a certain portion of money sent to the Philippines is used for social and philanthropic ends;

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Aldaba, another way to achieve brain gain is to have Filipino migrants who have already established themselves in developed economies to return use their expertise and skills for the betterment of the country. “Balik Scientist” is one example of a brain gain program by the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST);

WHEREAS, it was reported that Aldaba further requested that such programs should be expanded and not limited to migrants who have scientific skills. Instead, programs giving incentives to migrant workers should be created to increase the brain gain percentage in the country. He also allegedly stressed that there are already 8.7 millions of Filipinos overseas. With that number of Filipinos abroad, the government should think of a way to exploit that that kind of network in terms of market access and market information for our products in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Aldaba reportedly recommended the strengthening of tourism programs in the Philippines and the retirement village project of the government;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Aldaba also suggested that the government draw an explicit policy of labor migration that will define the strategic way of training people on certain skills to prevent shortages of workers. With this, the country could prepare for any type of future deployment;

WHEREAS, Aldaba allegedly stated that the government does not have a labor migration policy because “sometimes labor migration is seen as a failure of government to provide jobs in the country”;

WHEREAS, although we cannot stop people from migrating, the government should coordinate with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, PIDS and the migrant sector to come up with policies that will mitigate the brain drain happening in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we create a labor migration policy that will encourage migrant workers to return and contribute to the Philippines economy;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on creating migration policies that will address the alleged brain drain problem in the Philippines.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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