

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

8 OCT -6 2008

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 697

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED NEED TO FORM A BAND WITH
OTHER LABOR EXPORTING STATES TO NEGOTIATE FOR A BETTER DEAL
ON THE CONDITION OF THEIR MIGRANT WORKERS WITH THE HOST
COUNTRIES

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 Constitution Article 13, Section 3 states that "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";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 25 September 2008 issue reported that Dr. Jean D'Cunha, regional program director for Southeast Asia of the United Nations' Development Fund for Women (Unifem) allegedly said that although an estimated 191 million migrant workers worldwide contribute to the economic growth of host countries, they are still viewed as an "inconvenient necessity" because citizens of host countries feel threatened by the influx of migrant workers taking their jobs and state allocation for social and health benefits ;

WHEREAS, Dr. D'Cunha allegedly also allegedly sais that migrants are seen as a "polluting threat" to what is projected as "pristine" societies. She said migrants' assimilation is prevented to "avoid their competing with the entitlements" of host country's citizens;

WHEREAS, Dr. D'Cunha also allegedly reported that women migrant workers are culturally stereotyped as only good for either domestic work or as entertainers. She says that to counteract a perception, sending states should band together to negotiate for a better deal for their migrant workers, such as good working conditions and equal protection of right;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Philippine government create a comprehensive study on Filipina migrant workers and from that study, form measures that will lower the rate of harassment in their states of destination;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government should heed the call of Dr D'Cunha to band together with other states that have labor or manpower as their primary export, and create laws that will ensure the safety of women migrant workers. These laws could also

help reduce the cultural stereotype on women migrant workers as being either domestic workers or entertainers;

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 alleged need to form a band with other labor exporting states to negotiate for a better deal on the condition of their migrant workers with the host countries.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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