

9 JAN 20 13: 2

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 840

RECEIVED

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 MONITOR THE
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION FUND AND USE THIS
FOR THE BENEFIT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, various media have reported that Migrante International (Migrante), an international alliance of migrant groups, has inquired about the status of the supposed P10 billion overseas Filipino workers (OFW) fund with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), which came from the contribution of Filipino migrant workers;

WHEREAS, Garry Martinez, chairperson of Migrante, allegedly said that the funds are solely from the contributions of OFWs who shell out \$25 for the OWWA fund; Martinez also reportedly said that of the amount, \$1.25 directly goes to services while the remaining amount is for the expenses like allowances, rentals and transportation used by the officials and employees of the OWWA;

WHEREAS, Martinez also alleged that the OWWA claims that the fund is invested somewhere to continuously earn; however, until now, the OWWA has yet to show a report on the amount and status of the fund;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Martinez accused the OWWA of hiding the true state of the funds. According to Martinez, the OWWA would always say that it has no money and in its budget report, it has many cash advances amounting to millions that have not yet been liquidated;

WHEREAS, Martinez allegedly claims that the OWWA, through the OWWA fund should shell out P100,000 financial compensation for retrenched OFWs displaced by the global economic crisis;

WHEREAS, it was reported that though Migrante has elevated their concerns to the Supreme Court, the group did not sustain the case due to lack of funds;

WHEREAS, with the continuing global financial crisis, and with several OFWs experiencing difficulties with their employers abroad, the OWWA fund, which was solely contributed by them must be used in their aid;

WHEREAS, any government agency should be transparent in their finances, especially since the money they are handling does not belong to them but the people; in

the case of the OWWA fund, the money rightfully belongs to the OFWs who have contributed to the fund;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency should monitor the OWWA fund and see to it that the fund is used for the welfare of contributing OFWs;

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 monitor the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration fund and use this for the benefit of overseas Filipino workers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/mat