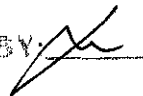




FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

'11 OCT 20 P1 :45

SENATE
P. S. R. No. **625**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPLORABLE SITUATION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN SAUDI ARABIA WHO ARE FORCED TO SELL THEIR BLOOD FOR DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND EARN EXTRA INCOME TO SEND REMITTANCES TO THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 mandates: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8042, also known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, Section 2c provides that: "While recognizing the significant contribution of Filipino migrant workers to the national economy through their foreign exchange remittances, the State does not promote overseas employment as a means to sustain economic growth and achieve national development. The existence of the overseas employment program rests solely on the assurance that the dignity and fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Filipino citizens shall not, at any time, be compromised or violated";

WHEREAS, based on the 15 October 2011 article in the *Manila Bulletin*, a number of jobless and undocumented overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Saudi Arabia are giving a whole new meaning to the term "lifeblood";

WHEREAS, Migrante-Middle East (M-ME), a group of Filipino migrants based in the Arab nation reported that there are allegedly around 8,000 to 10,000 undocumented OFWs in Saudi Arabia;

WHEREAS, according to M-ME Regional Coordinator John Leonard Monterona, several hapless OFWs in Saudi Arabia who are either unemployed or on the run, have been allegedly "selling" their blood for daily subsistence;

WHEREAS, this bloody trade was reportedly confirmed to M-ME by undocumented OFWs who previously sought assistance from the group;

WHEREAS, these distressed OFWs would allegedly give an amount of their blood to hospitals in exchange for cash, which, in some cases, becomes the money remitted to their families back in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, a 30-year-old OFW, who reportedly arrived in Saudi Arabia in 2009 to work as a glass-cutter but is now an illegal alien on the run, sells his blood monthly in order to send money to his family since it is very hard to get a job if one is an illegal alien;

WHEREAS, another OFW sold his blood to a hospital in Riyadh after being terminated from his last job;

WHEREAS, this deplorable incident should not be allowed to prevail; even if donating blood is a noble and humanitarian act, it is lamentable that some OFWs are forced to resort to this blood-for-money activity;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to provide much needed assistance to the OFWs and ensure that the dignity and fundamental human rights and freedom of our OFWs are not compromised or violated;

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 deplorable situation of overseas Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia who are forced to sell their blood for daily subsistence and earn extra income to send remittances to their families.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm