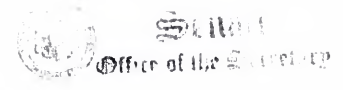


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**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**

'22 JUL 14 P3:56

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

P.S. Res. No. 31

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED LACK OF ACCESS OF CERTAIN FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF ALL OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

1 WHEREAS, there are 1.77 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) worldwide
2 according to the latest data of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) – 97 percent,
3 or 1.71 million, are overseas contract workers, while the remaining 3.6 percent, or
4 600,000, are other OFWs who worked abroad without working visa or work permits
5 but were presently employed and working full time in other countries;

6 WHEREAS, the 2018 PSA National Migration Survey presented that about 12
7 percent of all households (approximately 3.1 million) have or had at least one OFW
8 member either within the past 12 months or earlier than the past 12 months, while 9
9 percent (approximately 2.3 million households) had at least one member who was
10 currently out of the country at the time of the survey;

11 WHEREAS, the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) reiterated that remittances
12 from Overseas Filipinos have been an important source of financial resources to the
13 Philippines and that these serve as a crucial source of funding for the economy's
14 requirements with total remittances at the end of 2021 reaching a record-high of
15 USD31.4 Billion, or an estimated Php1.68 Trillion, despite the COVID-19 pandemic;

1 WHEREAS, the International Labour Organization (ILO) described the country's
2 labor migration as a "national thrust for economic growth" and noted that other
3 economies see the Philippines as a model in regulating migration – notably as the
4 government passed a landmark legislation that created the Department of Migrant
5 Workers that is primarily tasked to protect the rights and advance the interests of
6 Filipino migrants;

7 WHEREAS, more than 800,000 OFWs have been repatriated at the end of 2021
8 directly due to the on-going global health crisis that shuttered major economic sectors
9 all over the world leaving many of our returning *kababayans* helpless and unemployed;

10 WHEREAS, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) published a
11 study on the Filipino Migrant Workers' Access to Social Protection last December 2021,
12 which found that certain Filipino Migrant Workers lack access to social protection
13 schemes from the Social Security System (SSS), the Government Service Insurance
14 System (GSIS), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and other on-
15 site health insurance programs;

16 WHEREAS, the same PIDS study identified specific Filipino Migrant Workers who
17 are likely to be not covered by social protection or insurance, particularly those with
18 lower educational attainment, workers belonging to poorer households or the lowest
19 income quintile, individuals working in skilled agricultural, forestry, and fishery works
20 including those employed in elementary occupations, migrant workers employed in
21 Malaysia, Lebanon, and Bahrain, women migrant workers, and those directly hired by
22 employers or who did not need a visa or used a tourist visa upon entry or those without
23 written contracts;

24 WHEREAS, the study emphasized that only 53 percent of all workers have health
25 insurance or medical allowance as it was observed that the most common benefits
26 received by OFWs in their first migration experience are those serving their immediate
27 on-site needs instead of programs considered as safety nets such as health insurance,
28 overtime pay, paid sick leave, work accident compensation, among others;

1 WHEREAS, the authors of the study, namely Dr. Audrey D. Tabuga, Anna Rita P.
2 Vargas, and Maria Blesila D. Mondez, recommended that there should be initiatives to
3 improve the accessibility of social protection programs especially for OFWs who are seen
4 to be vulnerable and that the current processes in obtaining the overseas employment
5 certificate (OEC) must be revisited to ensure that all outbound migrant workers have
6 an ample opportunity to enroll in social protection;

7 WHEREAS, OFWs, the country's unsung heroes, who toil abroad and far away
8 from their families should not be left without adequate social protection as this condition
9 makes them vulnerable to economic shocks and unforeseen job disruptions while they
10 are deployed overseas;

11 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate
12 of the Philippines to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to look into the reported
13 inaccessibility of certain OFWs to social protection programs, with the end in view of
14 identifying specific interventions to preserve and protect the welfare of all Filipino
15 migrant workers worldwide.

Adopted,


SONNY ANGARA
AP