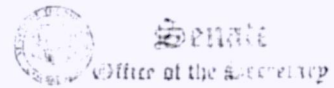


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ]  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ]  
Second Regular Session ]



SENATE

'18 FEB 19 A9:00

P.S. Res. No. 634

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S DEPLOYMENT BAN TO KUWAIT, INCLUDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE REPATRIATED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND THOSE WHOSE PLACEMENT HAS BEEN DEFERRED IN THE WAKE OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF DEATH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN THE SAID ARAB COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, according to Department of Foreign Affairs estimates, there are more than 250,000 Filipinos who work in Kuwait, with most of them as domestic helpers;

**WHEREAS**, in January of this year, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) suspended the deployment of overseas Filipino workers to Kuwait over recent deaths of seven migrant workers. Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III had directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) thru Administrative Order No. 25 to stop processing overseas employment certificates (OECs) of Kuwait-bound workers. The order was made to give way to the ongoing investigation into the OFWs deaths;

**WHEREAS**, on February 12, 2018, the Philippine government, thru Administrative Order No. 54, has ordered the total ban on the deployment of all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to Kuwait pursuant to the directive of the President of the Philippines "***in pursuit of national interest and with the advent of the series of reports involving abuse and death of OFWs***", in the wake of the death of another Filipina, Joanna Daniela Demafelis, whose body was found

inside a freezer in an apartment in Kuwait which had been abandoned by her employers in 2016;

**WHEREAS**, the President has further stated that the suspension it has imposed will remain indefinite to help preserve the Filipino life and limb. Regardless of the fact that Kuwait is an ally, President Duterte said that this abuse should not be tolerated;

**WHEREAS**, at least 400 Filipino workers from Kuwait arrived in the Philippines on February 12, 2018, and approximately seven thousand (7,000) more are expected to come home by virtue of the voluntary repatriation extended by the government to the OFWs in Kuwait;

**WHEREAS**, concerns are however being raised that imposing a ban on Filipinos working in Gulf States could push workers to resort to unsafe and unregulated channels. Notwithstanding the Repatriation Program of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), our government may not likewise be able to provide the adequate employment to the number of repatriated workers - cutting off a critical source of income for families in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Development Plan of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) of 2017-2022 gives attention to the special circumstances of OFWs and their families, and aims to empower them toward inclusive and sustainable development. The objectives are to protect their rights and improve their well-being, whether here or abroad; to strengthen their engagement in governance; and to facilitate their participation in our country's development and ensure their smooth reintegration in Philippine society;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to this sector-specific policy, the Philippine government may impose a stricter implementation of Republic Act 10022, or "*An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8042, Otherwise Known As The Migrant Workers And Overseas Filipinos Act Of 1995, As Amended, Further Improving The Standard Of Protection And Promotion Of The Welfare Of Migrant Workers, Their Families And Overseas Filipinos In Distress, And For Other Purposes*" which demand stronger protection for our OFWs;

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of these OFWs and their families, an inquiry should be made to determine if the country's present macroeconomic conditions, including its average growth rate, can sustainably absorb their economic reintegration into the domestic economy;

**WHEREAS**, this inquiry on the economic effects of the total deployment ban to Kuwait should be reviewed in order that the government may be able to assess the costs and benefits of the interventions that will be adopted, and facilitate OFW participation in our country's economic development and ensure their smooth reintegration in the Philippine society: Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the economic effects of the Philippine Government's deployment ban to Kuwait, including the economic impact on the repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers and their families and those whose placement has been deferred in the wake of several incidents of death of overseas Filipino workers in the said Arab country.

***Adopted,***



**WIN GATCHALIAN**