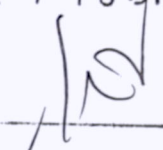


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

'18 MAR -7 P 6:51

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 676

Introduced by:
Senators Pimentel, Pacquiao, and Trillanes

1 **RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE**
2 **THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO**
3 **HOUSEHOLD SERVICE WORKERS TO COUNTRIES THAT**
4 **DO NOT AFFORD MIGRANTS THE SAME RIGHTS AND**
5 **WORK CONDITIONS AS THEIR NATIONALS AND ALLOW**
6 **WITHHOLDING OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS**
7 **BE TOTALLY BANNED**

8
9 **WHEREAS**, *Article XIII, Section 3, paragraph 1* of the
10 *Constitution* mandates the State to “afford full protection to labor, local
11 and overseas, xxxxx” while *Section 14* thereof mandates the State to
12 “protect working women by providing safe and healthful working
13 conditions, xxxxx”;

14
15 **WHEREAS**, while our current laws allow the deployment of
16 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) only to countries where the rights of
17 Filipino migrant workers are protected, it is a grim reality that many of
18 our overseas Filipino household service workers end up dead at the
19 hands of their abusive employers. Most, if not all of them, are women;

20
21 **WHEREAS**, several resolutions have been filed in the Senate
22 calling for inquiries, in aid of legislation, on the tragedies that befell
23 overseas Filipino household service workers, **Irma Avila Edloy**,
24 **Joanna Daniela Demafelis**, and **Josie Lloren**. Edloy died due to severe
25 injuries from suspected sexual assault. Demafelis’s body was found
26 inside a freezer in Kuwait. Lloren died two weeks after returning to the
27 country in January 2018 due to injuries sustained from suspected abuse;

1 **WHEREAS**, we have protected the rights of domestic workers in
2 the Philippines through the enactment of *Republic Act No. 10361*
3 otherwise known as the "*Domestic Workers Act*" or "*Batas*
4 *Kasambahay*". As a matter of policy, we should only allow the
5 deployment of domestic workers to countries that afford migrants the
6 same rights and work conditions as their nationals;
7

8 **WHEREAS**, this unequal treatment between migrant household
9 service workers and their nationals is usually seen in jurisdictions where
10 recruitment is done through a legal sponsorship system that requires
11 unskilled laborers to have an in-country sponsor, usually their
12 employers, who become responsible for their visa and legal status.
13 These circumstances allow the employers to treat these unskilled
14 laborers, usually household service workers, as investments, thereby
15 connoting their "purchase" by their employers;
16

17 **WHEREAS**, this system has created easy opportunities for the
18 exploitation of household service workers as many employers withhold
19 the passports of their household service workers and abuse them with
20 little or no legal repercussions on the part of the employers;
21

22 **WHEREAS**, we cannot renege on our Constitutional duty to
23 ensure that our domestic workers overseas are afforded the same full
24 protection to labor and that our Filipino women household service
25 workers abroad are provided with safe and healthful working conditions;
26

27 **WHEREAS**, considering the high vulnerability to abuse of
28 household service workers, a total deployment ban of overseas Filipino
29 household service workers to countries that do not afford migrants the
30 same rights and work conditions as their nationals and allow
31 withholding of Philippine passports is urgently needed at this time to
32 fully protect our household service workers, especially the women;
33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY**
35 **RESOLVED, TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE,**
36 **THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO**
37 **HOUSEHOLD SERVICE WORKERS TO COUNTRIES THAT**
38 **DO NOT AFFORD MIGRANTS THE SAME RIGHTS AND**
39 **WORK CONDITIONS AS THEIR NATIONALS AND ALLOW**
40 **WITHHOLDING OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS BE TOTALLY**
41 **BANNED.**

Adopted,



AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III



EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

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