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SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 1214

REG.

Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ILLEGAL ENGAGEMENT OF 20**  
**FILIPINAS IN CAMBODIA FOR UNDERGROUND COMMERCIAL GESTATIONAL**  
**SURROGACY**

1 WHEREAS, a total of 20 Filipino women were rescued by Cambodian National  
2 Police in Kandal Province last September 23, 2024, who were reportedly brought into  
3 Cambodia by an illegal recruiter to serve as surrogate mothers for compensation.

4 WHEREAS, the recruitment of these 20 Filipino women took place in cyberspace  
5 where they were supposed to be engaged as surrogate mothers or "bahay-bata" in  
6 exchange for a compensation package ranging from USD 10,000 to USD 12,000 per  
7 successful childbirth without undergoing the mandatory screening and verification  
8 process under the Department of Migrant Workers and in violation of immigration laws.  
9 Nineteen out of the 20 Filipino women transacted with a certain "IMA" on Facebook who  
10 was searching for gestational carriers bound for Thailand through an underground  
11 commercial gestational surrogacy arrangement.

12 WHEREAS, the alleged recruiter "IMA" arranged the Filipino women's flights from  
13 the Philippines and from various transit countries before reaching Thailand and Cambodia.

14 WHEREAS, some of the women were allegedly OFWs from Hongkong and Malaysia  
15 and they were initially told that they would stay in Thailand for implantation and  
16 throughout the course of their pregnancy. However, their "handler" moved them to

1 Cambodia after implantation to save costs, with plans to return them to Thailand at 36  
2 weeks for actual delivery.

3 WHEREAS, out of the 20 victims, 13 of them are already in various stages of  
4 pregnancy and are currently sheltered in a local hospital while 7 are not yet pregnant and  
5 are set to be repatriated.

6 WHEREAS, upon rescue and pending investigation by Cambodian authorities, legal  
7 assistance are currently being provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs to the  
8 rescued women, including providing them with their personal and pre-natal needs.

9 WHEREAS, Cambodian law enforcement authorities have confirmed that the  
10 rescue was made in line with the country's law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and  
11 Sexual Exploitation, following its prohibition on surrogacy in November 2016.

12 WHEREAS, apart from possible violations of anti-trafficking laws, this incident may  
13 also result to possible violations of immigration laws and transgression of mandatory  
14 overseas employment procedures;

15 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the  
16 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the illegal  
17 engagement of 20 Filipinas in Cambodia for underground commercial gestational  
18 surrogacy scheme.

Adopted,



Raffy T. Tulfo

