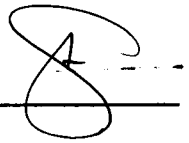


SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 1233

RECEIVED


Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE URGENT NEED FOR ENHANCED MEASURES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT IN THE SEASONAL WORKERS PROGRAMS (SWP) FOR FILIPINO WORKERS IN SOUTH KOREA

1 WHEREAS, the South Korean government launched its Seasonal Workers Program
2 (SWP) in 2017 to address chronic labor shortages during its busy farming and fishing
3 season;

4 WHEREAS, the Philippines began deploying workers in 2022 under the SWP
5 whereby workers were considered seasonal and their contracts usually last around five
6 to eight months until they return home and reapply again for a new season;

7 WHEREAS, the SWP had been recently criticized for noted irregularities, with
8 reports of abuse and the lack of a national authority that supervises the deployment
9 process and ensures the protection of the deployed workers;

10 WHEREAS, a survey revealed that seasonal workers were paid between 1.8 million
11 and 2.2 million KRW, or Php75,600 to Php92,400 monthly, in contrast to the minimum
12 wage for agriculture workers in Metro Manila, which is Php573 a day or a little over
13 Php12,400 a month;

14 WHEREAS, reports disclosed however, the existence of brokers who allegedly
15 intervened by collecting high recruitment and visa facilitation fees, then deducting hefty
16 amounts from workers' remittances, and sexually harassing workers. In sum, these
17 brokers allegedly, perpetrated "a spectrum of human rights violations.";

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Justice (DOJ) on February 08, 2024 issued a legal
2 opinion on the Korean SWP. The DOJ recognized the authority for Local Government
3 Units (LGU) to enter into sisterhood agreements with LGUs abroad based on the Local
4 Government Code, while also recognizing the DMW's authority to regulate recruitment;

5 WHEREAS, the DMW consequently imposed a moratorium on the processing of
6 seasonal workers from certain LGUs due to the presence of illegal recruitment activities;

7 WHEREAS, the DMW has confirmed the existence of illegal recruitment practices,
8 including excessive fee collection and the involvement of unlicensed brokers and the
9 agency has filed 38 illegal recruitment cases, involving 11 Korean nationals who acted as
10 brokers or intermediaries in the SWP;

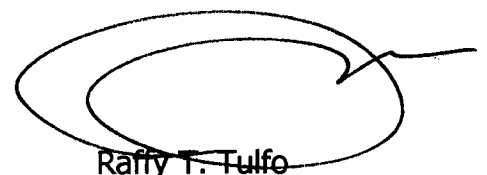
11 WHEREAS, seven (7) LGUs with existing agreement with their counterparts in
12 Korea were also barred in the processing and deployment of Filipino workers due to
13 elements of illegal recruitment, including collection of excessive fees from the workers;

14 WHEREAS, as of November 5, 2024, there are 6,967 OFWs deployed by 58
15 participating LGUs, of which 863 of them were deployed under the marriage track;

16 WHEREAS, there is a pressing need for a comprehensive government-to-
17 government agreement between the Philippines and South Korea to establish a more
18 secure and regulated recruitment process;

19 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate
20 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation to address the urgent need
21 for enhanced measures to combat illegal recruitment in the Seasonal Workers Program
22 (SWP) for Filipino workers in South Korea.

Adopted,



Raffy T. Tulfo