

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'10 NOV 10 P5:37

S.B. No. **2588**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by SEN. MANNY VILLAR

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are 1,422,586 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) deployed in 2009.<sup>1</sup> They also contributed to the 7.3% growth to our domestic economy in the first quarter of 2010 alone. Likewise, consumption which is driven by OFW remittances made up almost four-fifths or 78% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).<sup>2</sup> Their great contributions to our country have earned them the title "modern day heroes." However, it is unfortunate that the benefits which the country and the families of the OFWs derive from their sacrifices come at a very high price. Families of OFWs suffer the loneliness of being apart from their loved ones while the OFW bears the pain of solitude and isolation in distant lands just to earn a decent living to support their families.

Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. recognized the plight of our OFWs and lobbied to give every legitimate spouse-employee of an Overseas Filipino Worker in the private and public sectors an additional special leave credits of fifteen (15) days a year with full pay, subject to certain exceptions and which is promptly re-embodied again in this bill. This measure aims to give the OFW and his family the precious time which they so terribly missed while they were apart so that they may have the chance to reconnect as a family. Indeed, the family, being the foundation of the nation, is a basic social institution which public policy should cherish and protect.

Thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
MANNY VILLAR

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.poea.gov.ph/stats/2009\\_OFW%20Statistics.pdf](http://www.poea.gov.ph/stats/2009_OFW%20Statistics.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> "Thank OFWs for economic growth", Demand and Supply by Boo Chanco, Philippine Star, June 4, 2010

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to an SWS Survey made in 2008 entitled "2008 Survey of Enterprises on Corruption: Anti-Corruption sincerity ratings improved for only 8 out of 10 agencies", the perception of corruption did not improve, with three out of five seeing "a lot" of corruption in the public sector. In fact, seven out of ten companies were asked for a bribe in an index transaction- a record high since 2005<sup>1</sup>. In a similar study conducted by the Asia Foundation in 1999, around twenty-two percent (22%) of the respondents said that they have been personally asked for money by a government official to speed up transaction.

According to Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., such occurrences may partly be attributed to the fact that many are not familiar with the procedures necessary to transact business with government agencies. Hence, through legislation during the 14th Congress, he proposed that all government agencies be required to post each step of procedure to obtain a particular service; person/s responsible for each step; maximum time to conclude the process; amount of fees if necessary; and procedure for filing complaints. This way, the need for fixers as well as corrupt government officials will be minimized if not completely eradicated.

Thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**MANNY VILLAR**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.tag.org.ph/pdf/2008SWS%20\\_entSurvey.pdf](http://www.tag.org.ph/pdf/2008SWS%20_entSurvey.pdf)