

SENATE

'11 MAY 10 P6:24

P. S. Res. No. 462

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTS THAT
SOME LICENSED RECRUITMENT AGENCIES WITHHOLD THE PASSPORTS OF
JOB APPLICANTS WHILE THEIR DEPLOYMENT PAPERS ARE BEING
PROCESSED

Whereas, a Philippine passport is an official document issued to Filipino citizens to validate one's identity and nationality for purposes of international travel, subject to visa requirements, and is entirely owned by the holder only;

Whereas, under Sec. 5 of Republic Act No. 10022, which amended the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, a licensed recruitment agency is guilty of illegal recruitment when it "withholds or denies travel documents from applicant workers before departure for monetary or financial considerations, or for any other reasons XXX";

Whereas, there are reports that some licensed recruitment agencies withhold the passports and/or travel documents of job applicants, and often demand money in exchange for their retrieval;

Whereas, "passports-held-hostage" schemes by recruitment agencies allegedly demand money to job applicants who wish to claim their passports and other travel documents before their employment papers are finalized;

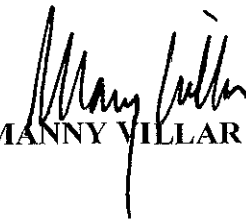
Whereas, an applicant who narrated his experience on "Bantay OFW", a public service program on radio station DZXL stated that his recruitment agency was charging him Php 12,000.00 to get his passport back;

Whereas, this deceitful practice allows recruitment agencies to profit from applicant workers even if they fail to deploy them;

Whereas, per RA 10022, an agency's failure to deploy a contracted worker without valid reason is considered an act of illegal recruitment: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resource Development and other appropriate committees, to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on reports that some licensed recruitment agencies withhold the passports of job applicants while their deployment papers are being processed.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR