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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 533

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO REPORTS THAT OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE REQUIRED EXIT CLEARANCE FROM THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF SIMPLIFYING THE PROCESS AND ELIMINATING RED TAPE IN SECURING THE SAME

Whereas, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are estimated to number between 8.6 million to 11 million worldwide, or about 11 percent of the Philippines' population;

Whereas, based on a recent count, an average of 100 OFWs leave the Philippines every hour to find well-paying jobs abroad;¹

Whereas, prior to departure, OFWs must present an exit clearance (officially termed Overseas Employment Certificate or OEC) issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to the immigration counter at the airport;

Whereas, an exit clearance certifies that the OFW is a registered legal overseas worker and guarantees that the worker will be given full protection and benefits by the government while abroad and upon return to the Philippines, while also exempting them from paying travel taxes and airport terminal fees;

Whereas, an article by Ms. Stella Ruth O. Gonzales was published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer recently² which recounted her daily ordeal to secure her OEC, which was not even checked by immigration at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon her departure;

Whereas, it is incumbent upon the government to assist OFWs whose remittances help keep the economy afloat;

Whereas, OFW remittances reached \$6.2 billion from January to April this year, a 6 percent increase from \$5.6 billion recorded in the same period last year;³

¹ RP on supporting OFWs, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, July 5, 2011

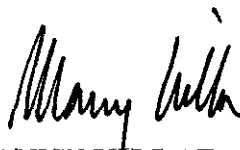
²Exit clearance: An OFW's nightmare, July 7, 2011

³ OFW Remittances Up 6% to \$6.2 Billion in 4 Months, Philippine Star, June 16, 2011

Whereas, we owe it to our OFWs to unburden them of unnecessary hassles and red tape when processing their travel documents, including exit clearances or OECs:
Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into reports that Overseas Filipino Workers experience difficulty in the application of the required exit clearance from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, with the end in view of simplifying the process and eliminating red tape in securing the same.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator