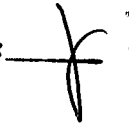


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'16 JUL 25 P2:36

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 26

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE NEED TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND FORMULATE PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF YOUNG FILIPINOS, INCLUDING THE UNEMPLOYED YOUTH, WORKERS IN VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT AND YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all. The State also recognizes the role of the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the National Statistics Office (NSO), the unemployment rate increased to 6.1% in April 2016 from 5.8% in January 2016. The employment rate is estimated at 93.9% in April 2016, down from 94.2% in January 2016. As of April 2016, 39.8 million Filipinos were employed: 56.7% working in the services sector, 25% in agriculture and 18.3% in the industry sector;

WHEREAS, according to the October 2015 Labor Force Survey by PSA, of the 42.1 million individuals who are part of the workforce, the age bracket from 15 to 24 years old accounted for 48% of the 2.3 million unemployed, while the age group 25 to 34 accounted for 32.2%. By educational attainment, 22.5% were college graduates, 13.3% were college undergraduates, and 33.3% were high school graduates. Underemployment in October 2015 was estimated at 7.0 million, with 3.9 million working less than 40 hours during the reference week and 3.0 million working full time;

WHEREAS, based on the data by the PSA, the quality and type of employment also remains a challenge. Of those who are employed, 27.9% were self-employed, 3.2% were employers in own family-operated farm or business, and 9.6% were unpaid family

workers. However, this type of employment is considered vulnerable and thus, marginally contributory to the overall growth of the economy;

WHEREAS, a number of policy initiatives have been introduced to address youth unemployment, among which is the JobStart Philippines Program, a program where youth beneficiaries receive full-cycle employment facilitation services. Such program entitles beneficiaries to career guidance and coaching, life skills training, a three month technical skills training and a company internship up to six months. As of February 2015, 3,407 youths were pre-selected; 1, 520 of which were placed for life-skills training; and 462 were referred for internship;

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, and despite other provisions addressing labor market information, skills training and upgrading, online job matching and improving skills on entrepreneurship, Asian Development Bank (ADB) still believes that youth unemployment remains as a policy challenge for the country. In its Asian Development Outlook released in March 2016, surveys show that due to the difficulty of college graduates and high school graduates alike in finding jobs, many tend to enter informal work despite poor pay and lack of security, or remain unemployed;

WHEREAS, ADB specifies that on the demand side, the number of jobs generated each year falls short of what is needed to absorb both new entrants into the labor force and the 2.5 million unemployed. Another factor also contributing to high youth unemployment is the mismatch of education and skills in the labor market;

WHEREAS, there is a need for close coordination and collaboration among the relevant government offices and institutions in providing employment to the youth including but not limited to Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the National Economic Authority (NEDA). In order to strategically and significantly promote job generation for young Filipinos and propose interventions on economic policies, there should be a coordinated policy framework to address the challenge of youth unemployment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increase of youth unemployment and the need to create employment opportunities and formulate programs to address the needs of young Filipinos, including the unemployed youth, workers in vulnerable employment, and young entrepreneurs.

Adopted,

