

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

SENATE  
P. S. Res No. 627



Senate

Office of the Secretary

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

'18 FEB 14 A8:03

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TOTAL BAN OF OVERSEAS**  
**FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) DEPLOYMENT TO KUWAIT IN THE LIGHT OF**  
**THE TRAGIC FATE OF SLAIN FILIPINA OFW JOANNA DEMAFELIS IN**  
**KUWAIT**

**WHEREAS**, on February 12, 2018, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued Administrative Order 54, Series of 2018, totally banning the deployment of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to Kuwait<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the order comes after authorities discovered the body of a Filipina inside the freezer of her employers in Kuwait, and amid the investigation on seven Filipino household workers killed in Kuwait<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III on Thursday (February 8, 2018) confirmed Joanna Demafelis' death. She was 29. Her body was found stored in a freezer in an apartment in Kuwait, where it may have been kept for over a year. Authorities said it had torture marks and there were indications she was strangled to death<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 250,000 Filipinos are working in Kuwait, 75 percent of which are household service workers<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, over 400 OFWs were brought back home on Monday (February 12, 2018) morning as part of the government's mass repatriation program<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the countless deaths and unceasing maltreatment of Overseas Filipino Workers calls upon the Philippine Government to further efforts to protect the rights and welfare of OFWs;

<sup>1</sup>GMA News Website, Bello bans OFW deployment to Kuwait, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/pinoyabroad/news/643010/bello-bans-ofw-deployment-to-kuwait/story/>

<sup>2</sup> CNN Philippines News Website, DOLE orders total ban on deployment of OFWs to Kuwait, <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2018/02/12/OFW-Kuwait-total-deployment-ban.html>

<sup>3</sup> CNN Philippines News Website, Family of slain OFW in Kuwait had no idea she was maltreated, <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2018/02/10/Family-of-OFW-found-in-freezer-in-Kuwait-had-no-idea-she-was-maltreated.html>

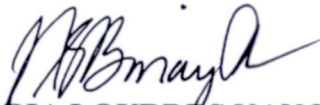
<sup>4</sup> Supra [Citation 1]

<sup>5</sup> Supra [Citation 2]

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the Senate, by law, to protect the rights and privileges of OFWs.;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the total ban of Overseas Filipino Workers deployment to Kuwait in the light of the tragic fate of slain Filipina OFW Joanna Demafelis in Kuwait.

Adopted,



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**