



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

'18 SEP 26 P5:12

RECEIVED

Handwritten initials "SV" and a signature line

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LABOR AND FINANCE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE PHP 1.4 BILLION WORTH OF FUNDS IN THE 2018 *GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT* FOR DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) WHO ARE SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING TO THE COUNTRY, ON WHETHER THESE AMOUNTS WERE UTILIZED EFFECTIVELY AND REACHED THE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES, AND TO INCLUDE THESE INFORMATION IN THE DELIBERATIONS IN THE *NATIONAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM (NEP)* FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

1 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides
2 that the legislative power shall be vested in the Congress of the Philippines;

3 WHEREAS, Section 29 of the same Article further provides that "No money
4 shall be paid out of the Treasury except in pursuance of an **appropriation made**
5 **by law**" (emphasis supplied);

6 WHEREAS, the Constitutional provisions cited above makes it clear that the
7 power to enact appropriations measures is a correlative of the legislative power
8 vested in the Congress;

9 WHEREAS, such appropriations measures are based on the "budget of
10 expenditures and sources of financing" submitted by the President to Congress,
11 pursuant to Article VII, Section 22 of the 1987 Constitution;

12 WHEREAS, the Congress has the power and responsibility to scrutinize the
13 President's proposed budget before it is enacted into law;

14 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitutional provisions and principles identified
15 above, the President has submitted the National Expenditure Program for Fiscal Year
16 (FY) 2019, which is currently being scrutinized by both houses of Congress;

1 WHEREAS, in the National Expenditure Program for FY 2019, the following
 2 amounts are proposed to be appropriated for Overseas Filipino Workers in distress,
 3 and who may seek assistance in returning to the country;

4

Department/Agency	Line Item	Amount
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	Promotion of the rights and welfare of Overseas Filipinos	Php 1,258,307,000
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	Reintegration Services for Overseas Filipino Workers	Php 76,335,000
Overseas Workers Welfare Authority (OWWA)	Welfare Services- Emergency Repatriation Program	Php 35,000,000
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)	Overseas Filipino Welfare Program	Php 81,132,000
Total		Php 1,450,774,000

5 WHEREAS, in addition to the amounts identified above, the OWWA also has
 6 an off-budget account of Php 2,717,902,000 for the Emergency Repatriation Fund
 7 which shall be disbursed to the trustees of the OWWA fund, pursuant to Sections 35
 8 and 38 or Republic Act No. 10801, or the "*Overseas Workers Welfare Administration*
 9 *Act*";

10 WHEREAS, before the said amounts are approved, there is a need to review
 11 the utilization of the funds appropriated for the same programs in previous years;

12 WHEREAS, consider that the following amounts were appropriated by
 13 Congress in the 2018 *General Appropriations Acts* enacted 2018, for the same items
 14 identified above:

Department/Agency	Line Item	Amount
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	Promotion of the rights and welfare of Overseas	Php 1,257,670,000

	Filipinos	
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	Reintegration Services for Overseas Filipino Workers	Php 100,000,000
Overseas Workers Welfare Authority (OWWA)	Welfare Services- Emergency Repatriation Program	Php 35,000,000
Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)	Overseas Filipino Welfare Program	Php 57,219,000
Total		Php 1,449,889,000

1 WHEREAS, Congress must ensure that these amounts were effectively utilized
2 to ensure that these reached the intended beneficiaries, and that these funds were
3 not wasted;

4 WHEREAS, although the Constitution vests in the executive branch the
5 responsibility to faithfully "execute the laws", such can only be achieved through the
6 proper utilization of the amounts appropriated by Congress in the General
7 Appropriations Act;

8 WHEREAS, the slow or inefficient disbursement and utilization of the amounts
9 in the General Appropriations Act is tantamount to non-implementation of the laws;

10 NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of
11 the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committees on Labor and Finance, to conduct
12 an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the utilization of the Php 1.4 billion worth of funds
13 in the 2018 *General Appropriations Act* for distressed Overseas Filipino Workers
14 (OFWs) who are seeking assistance in returning to the country, on whether these
15 amounts were utilized effectively and reached the intended beneficiaries, and to
16 include these information in the deliberations in the *National Expenditure Program*
17 (nep) for Fiscal Year 2019.

18
19 *Adopted,*


GRACE POE