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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 172

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PERTINENT LAWS AND POLICIES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING AMENDATORY AND OTHER POLICY MEASURES AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT BUDGETARY ALLOCATION THEREFOR, AS NEEDED, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AND SAFEGUARD ECONOMIC AND RELATED RIGHTS AND ENSURE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN IN VULNERABLE BASIC SECTORS, INFORMAL SECTORS, BARANGAY MICRO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (BMBEs), AND, MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, AND COOPERATIVES

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution declares that "the State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development", that "(t)he promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance", and that the State "values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, the data of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on gender statistics relating to work and economic participation showed that the labor force participation rate of women over the past years had been considerably lower compared to men, with 2022 data showing female labor force participation rate at 53.2 percent while the male labor force participation rate was at 76.3 percent¹;

WHEREAS, based on the PSA statistics, women, who compose 49.4 percent of the country's total population, are among the vulnerable basic sectors in the country, with a poverty incidence rate of 16.6 percent in 2018²;

WHEREAS, according to the gender snapshots of COVID-19 published by the UN Women Asia and the Pacific, aside from the challenges experienced in access to healthcare services, gender-based violence, and other human rights violations,

women in the Philippines also suffered even more from economic insecurity due to loss of livelihood, which in turn has increased their vulnerability³;

WHEREAS, the UN Women report also stated that 6.6 million Filipino women are working in the informal sector with lower earning capacity, little to no access to labor protections, including sick leave or protections against dismissal, and in many situations, livelihoods are dependent on public spaces and social interactions, which are now restricted due to COVID-19⁴;

WHEREAS, many Filipino women are employed in the service and retail industry, which are among the first sectors affected by the COVID-19 lockdowns and community quarantines, disrupting traditional employment modalities and resulting in workforce adjustments⁵;

WHEREAS, it is evident that the existing gender and social inequality existing before the COVID-19 pandemic are now exacerbated and need to be addressed promptly. Existing laws and policies need to be reviewed to ensure that they are proportionate and gender-responsive to help promote employment and economic upliftment among Filipino women and others in the vulnerable basic sectors in order to meet their needs for financing, capacity development and skills, and linkage and marketing support needs;

WHEREAS, there is also an urgent need to ensure that provisions under women-specific laws that guarantee the economic rights of women in marginalized sectors and the micro and small enterprises and cooperatives on financing, investments and trade are effectively implemented as all these necessarily entail jobs generation and provision of other economic opportunities in priority industries, sectors and areas;

WHEREAS, other laws and policies on financing, investments and trade also need to be reviewed to establish their relevance to the economic empowerment of women, as well as to determine the financial and resource allocation needed for the effective implementation of said laws for the benefit of women and groups and enterprises of concern. Among such laws and policies, but not limited to, are the following:

- (1) Pertaining to the vulnerable basic sectors: Republic Act No. 8550 (Fisheries Code); Republic Act No. 11321 (Sagip-Saka Act); Republic Act No. 8371 (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act); Republic Act No. 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons); Republic Act No. 7432 as amended by Republic Act 9994 (the Expanded Citizens Act); Republic Act No. 11291 (Magna Carta of the Poor); Republic Act No. 8425 (Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act); Republic Act No. 10000 (Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act); Republic Act No. 10816 (Farm Tourism Development Act); Republic Act No. 11057 (Personal Property Security Act); Republic Act No. 11231 (Agricultural Free Patent Reform Act);

- (2) Pertaining to women: Republic Act No. 9710 (Magna Carta of Women); Republic Act No. 7192 (Women in Development and Nation-Building Act);
- (3) Pertaining to workers and employees: Presidential Decree No. 442 as amended by Republic Act Nos. 10151, 10395, and 10396 (Labor Code as amended); Republic Act No. 11165 (Telecommuting Act) and COVID-related agency or joint issuances by the DOLE, DTI, and the DOH; Republic Act No. 11058 (Occupational Safety and Health Standards law); Republic Act No. 10361 (Batas Kasambahay); Republic Act No. 10771 (Philippine Green Jobs Act); Republic Act No. 10066 (National Cultural Heritage Act); Republic Act No. 11210 (Expanded Maternity Leave Law); Republic Act No. 8187 (Paternity Leave Act); Republic Act No. 8972 (Solo Parents' Welfare Act); Republic Act No. 11313 (Safe Spaces Act);
- (4) Pertaining to enterprises and cooperatives: Republic Act No. 6977 as amended by Republic Act Nos. 8289 and 9501 (Magna Carta for MSMEs as amended); Republic Act No. 10644 (Go Negosyo Act); Republic Act No. 9178 (BMBEs Act); Republic Act No. 6938 (Cooperatives Code) with Republic Act No. 11364 (Cooperative Development Authority Charter); Republic Act No. 11337 (Innovative Startup Act); Republic Act No. 10679 (Youth Entrepreneurship Act); Republic Act No. 11032 (Ease in Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act); Republic Act No. 10693 (Microfinance NGOs Act); and
- (5) Pertaining to financing, investment and trade: Republic Act No. 6957 as amended by Rep Act No. 7718 (BOT Law as amended) and its IRR and related policy issuances; Tourism Act, Special Economic Zone Act, the Omnibus Investments Code with the 2020 Investments Priorities Plan and the Strategic Investments Priorities Plan (SIPP); and trade agreements;

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Policy of the Magna Carta of Women states that "(t)he State affirms women's rights as human rights and shall intensify its efforts to fulfill its duties under international and domestic law to recognize, respect, protect, fulfill, and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, especially marginalized women, in the economic, social, political, cultural and other fields without distinction or discrimination on account of class, age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, ideology, disability, education, and status";

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the appropriate committee/s of the Senate of the Philippines conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation of pertinent laws and policies with the end in view of formulating amendatory and other policy measures and providing sufficient budgetary allocation therefore, as needed, to promote and safeguard the

economic and related rights and to ensure equitable economic opportunities and benefits for women in the vulnerable basic sectors, the informal sector, the barangay micro business enterprises (BMBE), and the micro and small enterprises, social enterprises, and cooperatives.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA

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1. <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/survey/labor-and-employment/labor-force-survey/title/Employment%20Rate%20in%20June%202022%20is%20Estimated%20at%2094.0>
 2. <https://psa.gov.ph/gender-stat/wmf>
 3. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2020/04/PHL-COVID%20Gender%20Snapshot%20April%202020.pdf>
 4. *ibid*
 5. *ibid*