



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6649

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANETE, GATCHALIAN, MANALO, VELARDE,
CANAMA, VILLARIN, MENDOZA, BERTIZ, GONZALES (A.D.),
ARENAS, DELOSO-MONTALLA, TAN (A.), SUANSING (E.),
DEL MAR, BATOCABE, SY-ALVARADO, LAZATIN, CASTELO,
VIOLAGO, SALO, VELASCO-CATERA, GARIN (S.) RELAMPAGOS,
PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, ESPINO, ANGARA-CASTILLO, NIETO,
BORDADO AND TAMBUNTING, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 477

AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE PRE-DEPARTURE
ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO
WORKERS TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND
OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 SECTION 1. A new paragraph shall be added after the second
2 paragraph of subparagraph (b.1), Section 23 of Republic Act
3 No. 8042, as amended, to read as follows:

4 "SEC. 23. *Role of Government Agencies.* - x x x

5 "(a) x x x

6 "(b) x x x

1 “(b.1) Philippine Overseas Employment
2 Administration. – The Administration shall regulate
3 private sector participation in the recruitment and
4 overseas placement of workers by setting up a licensing
5 and registration system. It shall also formulate and
6 implement, in coordination with appropriate entities
7 concerned, when necessary, a system for promoting and
8 monitoring the overseas employment of Filipino
9 workers taking into consideration their welfare
10 and the domestic manpower requirements. It shall be
11 responsible for the regulation and management of
12 overseas employment from the pre-employment stage,
13 securing the best possible employment terms and
14 conditions for overseas Filipino workers, and taking into
15 consideration the needs of vulnerable sectors and the
16 peculiarities of sea-based and land-based workers. In
17 appropriate cases, the Administration shall allow the
18 lifting of suspension of erring recruitment/manning
19 agencies upon the payment of fine of Fifty thousand
20 pesos (P50,000.00) for every month of suspension.

21 “In addition to its powers and functions, the
22 Administration shall inform migrant workers not only
23 of their rights as workers but also of their rights as
24 human beings, instruct and guide the workers how to
25 assert their rights and provide the available mechanism
26 to redress violation of their rights. It shall also be
27 responsible for the implementation, in partnership with
28 other law-enforcement agencies, of an intensified

1 program against illegal recruitment activities. For this
2 purpose, the POEA shall provide comprehensive
3 Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) that
4 will discuss topics such as prevention of illegal
5 recruitment and gender-sensitivity.

6 "THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ALSO CONDUCT
7 FREE COMPREHENSIVE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION
8 SEMINARS (PDOS) TO ALL OVERSEAS WORKERS,
9 IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
10 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE OVERSEAS
11 WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA), THE
12 DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA), THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT
14 OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD),
15 THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), AND THE
16 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), WITH
17 THE FOLLOWING CURRICULUM:

18 "(1) TERMS OF DEPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT
19 CONTRACTS INCLUDING RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF
20 MIGRANTS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS;

21 "(2) CRIMINAL AND LABOR LAWS AND
22 REGULATIONS OF DESTINATION COUNTRIES;

23 "(3) FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL
24 EDUCATION;

25 "(4) ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES
26 FOR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION
27 COUNTRIES;

1 “(5) ROLE OF PHILIPPINE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
2 AND PROCEDURES ON HOW TO ACCESS ASSISTANCE;

3 “(6) BASIC LANGUAGE COURSE OF DESTINATION
4 COUNTRIES;

5 “(7) ISSUES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRUG
6 TRAFFICKING;

7 “(8) CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS AWARENESS OF
8 DESTINATION COUNTRIES;

9 “(9) PROCEDURE FOR FILING INSURANCE
10 CLAIMS;

11 “(10) BANKING AND REMITTANCE CHANNELS;

12 “(11) SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS;

13 “(12) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
14 ISSUES;

15 “(13) HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER SENSITIVITY;

16 “(14) MENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES;

17 “(15) REINTEGRATION FOR RETURNING AND
18 DEPORTED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs); AND

19 “(16) FAMILY VALUES.

20 “*PROVIDED*, THAT AN OFW, WHOSE CONTRACT
21 WAS RENEWED, OR WAS REHIRED IN THE SAME COUNTRY
22 SHALL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE
23 SEMINAR UNLESS A NEW CURRICULUM IS INTRODUCED
24 FOR WHICH THE SAID OFW SHALL ATTEND THE NEW
25 COURSE: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE SEMINAR
26 SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY PROFESSIONALS AND
27 ACCREDITED INSTRUCTORS FOR SPECIFIC
28 OCCUPATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND DESTINATIONS.

29 “x x x.”

1 SEC. 2. The POEA, in coordination with the DOLE, OWWA,
2 DFA, DOH, DSWD, DOF and the DTI, shall, within ninety (90) days
3 after the approval of this Act, issue the necessary rules and
4 regulations for its effective implementation.

5 SEC. 3. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
6 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected
7 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

8 SEC. 4. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
9 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
10 contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act is hereby
11 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

12 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers
14 of general circulation.

Approved,

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