

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City




EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6147

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill is intended to provide for the Overseas Filipino Workers comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars (PDOS) to all departing overseas workers. Included in the curriculum are subject matters that are of significant importance which shall be beneficial to the OFWs. Some of the subject matters are basic language course of destination countries, issues on human rights and drug trafficking, occupational safety and benefits, and more. Given that the OFWs are faced with much challenges as they are employed in a different country which is not their home, through the PDOS, OFWs are provided with vital and critical information which will help their overall well-being while being away from home. As such, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


ERIC OLIVAREZ

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**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 in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. A new paragraph shall be added after the second
paragraph of Sub-paragraph b.1, Section 23 of Republic Act No.
8042, as amended, to read as follows:

“Section 23. Role of Government Agencies. – x x x

(a) x x x

(b) x. x. x

(b.1) Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

*- The Administration shall regulate private sector
participation in the recruitment and overseas
placement of workers by setting up a licensing and*

registration system. It shall also formulate and implement, in coordination with appropriate entities concerned, when necessary, a system of promoting and monitoring the overseas employment of Filipino workers taking into consideration their welfare and the domestic manpower requirements. It shall be responsible for the regulation and management of overseas employment from the employment stage, securing the best possible employment terms and conditions for overseas Filipino workers, taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable sectors and the peculiarities of sea-based and land-based workers. In appropriate cases, the administration shall allow the lifting of suspension of erring recruitment/manning agencies upon the payment of fine of fifty thousand pesos ({50,000.00) for every month of suspension.

In addition to its powers and functions, the administration shall inform migrant workers not only of their rights as workers but also of their rights as human beings, instruct and guide the workers how to assert their rights and provide the available mechanism to redress violation of their rights. IT shall also be responsible for the implementation, in partnership with other law-enforcement agencies, of an intensified program against illegal recruitment activities. For this purpose, the POEA shall provide comprehensive Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) that will discuss topics such as prevention of illegal recruitment and gender-sensitivity.

**"THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ALSO CONDUCT
FREE COMPREHENSIVE PRE-DEPARTURE
ORIENTATION SEMINARS (PDOS) TO ALL**

OVERSEAS WORKERS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA), THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), WITH THE FOLLOWING CURRICULUM:

- 1) TERMS OF DEPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS INCLUDING RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MIGRANTS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS;
- 2) CRIMINAL AND LABOR LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF DESTINATION COUNTRIES;
- 3) FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION;
- 4) ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES FOR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES;
- 5) ROLE OF PHILIPPINE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND PROCEDURES ON HOW TO ACCESS ASSISTANCE;
- 6) BASIC LANGUAGE COURSE OF DESTINATION COUNTRIES;
- 7) ISSUES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING;
- 8) CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS AWARENESS OF DESTINATION COUNTRIES;
- 9) PROCEDURE FOR FILING INSURANCE CLAIMS;
- 10) BANKING AND REMITTANCE CHANNELS;
- 11) SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS;

12) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ISSUES;

13) HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER SENSITIVITY;

14) MENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES;

15) REINTEGRATION FOR RETURNING AND DEPORTED OFWS; AND

16) FAMILY VALUES

PROVIDED, THAT AN OFW, WHOSE CONTRACT WAS RENEWED, OR WAS RE-HIRED IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHALL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR UNLESS A NEW CURRICULUM IS INTRODUCED FOR WHICH THE SAID OFW SHALL ATTEND THE NEW COURSE: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE SEMINAL SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY PROFESSIONS AND ACCREDITED INSTRUCTORS FOR SPECIFIC OCCUPATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND DESTINATIONS."

X X X

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

SECTION 3. Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,