

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 250



Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE UNABATED INFLUX OF CHINESE NATIONALS IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND RELATED ISSUES ON PHILIPPINE LABOR LAWS,
NATIONAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.**

WHEREAS, article II, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "(t)he State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

WHEREAS, article II, Section 9 of the same provides that "(t)he State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

WHEREAS, article XIII, Section 3 of the same provides that "(t)he State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all."

WHEREAS, Philippine immigration¹ and labor laws² require an Alien Employment Permit before a foreign national may engage in gainful employment and only in those areas where there are no competent, able and willing Filipino workers.

WHEREAS, numerous Chinese workers, who reportedly receive disproportionately higher wages than their Filipino counterparts, were observed to have been employed in the country's major construction projects funded by China

¹ Sections 13 and 29(a) of Commonwealth Act No. 613

² Title II, Article 40 (Employment permit of non-resident aliens), Labor Code of the Philippines (Renumbered).

through grants, although there are abundant competent, able and willing Filipino construction workers as Filipino workers have, in fact, been involved in most of the mega-construction projects in the middle east and other parts of the world and that the economic downturn in the Middle East necessitates the hiring of Filipino construction workers locally.³

WHEREAS, more alarming than the presence of Chinese construction workers are the estimated 138,000 Chinese nationals who are recruited, often without proper work documentation, in the country's 58 licensed internet-based Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations or POGOs.⁴

WHEREAS, the influx of these Chinese workers has driven up real property prices in Metro Manila which made the condominium market out of reach of ordinary Filipinos and has resulted in the eviction of preselling Filipino buyers from their condominium units.⁵

WHEREAS, the rising number of Chinese POGO workers has caused apprehensions among Filipinos which likened their ubiquitous presence as akin to invasion, and even the Defense Secretary fears that the Chinese may eventually engage in spying activities as POGO hubs are observed to be strategically built near military camps.⁶

WHEREAS, on 19 August 2019, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) announced that it will stop accepting applications for POGO licenses, still the issues plaguing the POGO industry pertinent to labor affecting its Chinese workers, as well concerns on national security and sovereignty needs to be addressed to be properly resolved.⁷

WHEREAS, although there are estimates, the government has no consolidated data as to the number of Chinese nationals currently working in the country from the four state entities which separately issue different types of visas:

³ "DOLE'S Reasoning Behind the 90% Reduction in Overseas Deployment of Construction Workers, Very Misleading -MIGRANTE", Migrante International.org, March 7, 2019. Available at <https://migranteinternational.org/2019/03/07/does-reasoning-behind-the-90-reduction-in-overseas-deployment-of-construction-workers-very-misleading-migrante/> (Last accessed on August 19, 2019).

⁴ Vivienne Gulla, "Gaming regulator suspends acceptance of new POGO applications," ABS-CBN News, Aug 19 2019. Available at <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/08/19/19/gaming-regulator-suspends-acceptance-of-new-pogo-applications> (Last accessed on August 19, 2019).

⁵ Phila Siu, Sarah Zheng, "China holds the cards as online betting booms in the Philippines," South China Morning Post, December 15, 2018. Available at <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/geopolitics/article/2177683/china-holds-cards-online-betting-booms-philippines> (Last accessed on August 19, 2019).

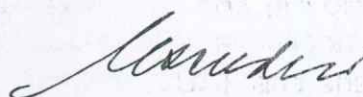
⁶ JC Gotinga, "Defense chief says Chinese POGO workers can easily shift to espionage," Rappler, August 17, 2019. Available at <https://www.rappler.com/nation/237920-defense-chief-says-chinese-pogo-workers-can-easily-shift-espionage> (Last accessed on August 19, 2019).

⁷ Mary Grace Padin, "Pagcor confirms moratorium on new POGO applications," PhiStar.com, August 20, 2019. Available at <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/08/20/1944887/pagcor-confirms-moratorium-new-pogo-applications#m8XzdbAki2vghlgL.99> (Last accessed on August 20, 2019)

the Department of Foreign Affairs which issues tourist visas and pre-employment visas; the Bureau of Immigration which issues immigrant, non-immigrant, special immigrant, special non-immigrant visas, visas upon arrival (VUA), and special work permits (SWPs); the Department of Justice which issues a special non-immigrant and investor residents' visa; and the Cagayan Export Zone Authority which issues CEZA working visas, investor's resident visas and dependent visas.⁸

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNABATED INFLUX OF CHINESE NATIONALS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND RELATED ISSUES ON PHILIPPINE LABOR LAWS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

Adopted,



EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

⁸ Raissa Robles, "Chinese workers 'flood' the Philippines, yet Duterte's officials 'don't know' how many there are," South China Morning Post, 22 Dec, 2018. Available at <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/economics/article/2178749/chinese-workers-flood-philippines-yet-dutertes-officials-dont> (Last accessed on August 19, 2019)