

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 684



**Introduced by Hon. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA**  
**Trade Union Congress Partylist Representative**

**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NATURE, FUNCTION, AND MISSION OF THE JOINT INDUSTRIAL PEACE AND CONCERNS OFFICE (JIPCO)**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine National Police (PNP) established a Joint Industrial Peace and Concern Office (JIPCO) in the Clark Freeport Zone, which during its launch on 22 January 2020, PNP Brig. Gen. Rhodel Sermonia, announced it as a community relations program of the PNP in partnership with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and "generally the first line of defense from radical labor infiltration of the labor force and the industrial zones in support of End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC);"

**WHEREAS**, the PNP has also announced the creation of similar offices in Region III where the Freeport Area of Bataan (FAB) is located which employs thousands of workers especially in the manufacturing industry;

**WHEREAS**, trade unions and labor organizations, given the rising trend of criminalization of labor disputes and arrest and detentions of union leaders on trumped up charges, expressed grave concern that JIPCO and ELCAC are initiatives that infringe on guaranteed rights of workers to organize and to collectively bargain as provided under Section 3, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution<sup>1</sup>;


<sup>1</sup> Section 3, Article XIII provides: "... State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all. It shall guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiation, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with law. They shall be entitled to security of tenure, humane conditions of work, and a living wage. They shall also participate in policy and decision-making processes affecting their rights and benefits as may be provided by law. The State shall regulate the relations between workers and employers, recognizing the right of labor to its just share in the fruits of production."

1 **WHEREAS**, the PNP and PEZA initiatives with the support of the LGUs should  
2 consider that production in the economic zones are linked to the global market  
3 and is subsisting largely on trade agreements providing zero tariffs that are  
4 conditioned on compliance with the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of  
5 workers to organize and to collectively bargain and International Labour  
6 Standards (ILS);

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the PNP and PEZA should note that preferential access of Philippine  
9 products to the US markets under the US Generalized System of Preferences (US-  
10 GSP) is conditioned on compliance with the labour rights clause,<sup>2</sup> while  
11 preferential access to the European Union (EU) markets under the EU  
12 Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (EU-GSP+),<sup>3</sup> which provides duty-free  
13 entry for 6,274 products from the Philippines, requires the effective  
14 implementation of 27 ratified international conventions in the fields of core  
15 human and labour rights, the environment and good governance;

16  
17 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that given the  
18 potential labor and economic implications of the PNP and PEZA initiatives, the  
19 Committee on Labor and Employment of the House of Representatives is  
20 directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the nature, function, and  
21 mission of the Joint Industrial and Peace Concern Office (JIPCO), with the end  
22 view of ensuring observance to the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of  
23 workers to organize and collectively bargain, and of faithful compliance with the  
24 country's commitments in trade agreements and international treaties.

25  
26 **Adopted,**

27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
  
**RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA**  
**TUCP Partylist**

---

<sup>2</sup> US-GSP Guidebook, July 2013, requires countries to "x x x have taken or is taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights, including (1) the right of association, (2) the right to organize and bargain collectively, (3) a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor, (4) a minimum age for the employment of children, and a prohibition on the worst forms of child labor, and (5) acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work and occupational safety and health; and to "x x x implement any commitments it makes to eliminate the worst forms of child labor."

<sup>3</sup> The Philippines is a beneficiary to special incentive arrangement in the form of zero duties for 6,274 products under the EU-GSP+ since 25 December 2014, but it is required to have ratified and effectively implemented 27 specified international conventions in the fields of core human and labour rights, the environment and good governance, and undertake to maintain the ratification of the conventions and their implementing legislation and measures, and accept regular monitoring and review of the implementation record in accordance with the implementation provisions of the relevant conventions.