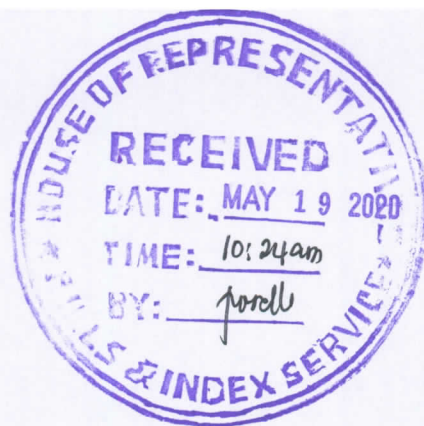


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 884



Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives FERDINAND R. GAITE,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TO URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY
SILVESTRE BELLO III TO RECALL TAIWAN LABOR ATTACHÉ FIDEL
MACAUYAG FOR ABUSING HIS AUTHORITY AND FAILING IN HIS MANDATE
TO PROTECT MIGRANT WORKERS OVERSEAS

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020, Labor Attaché Fidel Macauyag and other officials from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Taichung, Taiwan went to Elanel Ordidor's workplace urging her to desist from posting things on Facebook that were unflattering to the President back home. The said officials demanded that she post a video of herself apologizing to President Rodrigo Duterte for her "nasty and malevolent" statements that "maligned and discredited" him, and "destabilized" his government;"

WHEREAS, Macauyag released a statement after the incident stating that he, together with other POLO officers went to Ordidor's workplace to "enlighten" her and tell her that such actions "amounted to a crime for which she might be prosecuted both in Taiwan and the Philippines under cyber libel under Republic Act 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012." The POLO further said the caregiver committed to deleting all her uploaded videos against Duterte and supposedly even promised to upload a public apology to the President and the government. However, she allegedly continued to share posts "to discredit and malign the President and destabilize the government" through several social media accounts. POLO in Taiwan said it coordinated with Ordidor's broker and employer to secure her deportation for allegedly violating the Philippines' cybercrime laws;"

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws;"

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives;"

WHEREAS, Article XVI, Section 10 of the 1987 Constitution states that "The State shall provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced

1 flow of information into, out of, and across the country, in accordance with a policy that respects
2 the freedom of speech and of the press;"

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4 **WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2020, the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a pronouncement
5 rejecting Macauyag's call for Ordidor's deportation, saying that Taiwan is a sovereign, independent
6 country where foreign workers enjoy 'citizen treatment,' and their rights and interests are protected
7 by relevant laws and regulations, including freedom of speech, which should be respected by
8 governments of all countries. The Ministry further added that no person or institution, has the
9 right to pressure Ordidor, her employer, or broker, nor shall she be deported without consultations
10 held between both governments;"

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12 **WHEREAS**, Angelito Banayo, chairman and resident representative of the Manila Economic and
13 Cultural Office (MECO) belied the pronouncements of Macauyag stating that the order for
14 deportation is a sovereign right of the Taiwanese government;"

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16 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has sounded alarm over the POLO's
17 actions. CHR spokesperson Jacqueline Ann de Guia stressed that labor offices abroad exist
18 primarily to protect migrant workers who may run into trouble as they try to provide better
19 livelihood for their families back in the Philippines. She also reiterated that Filipinos' "freedom of
20 speech, of expression, or the right of the people to petition the government for redress of
21 grievance" are guaranteed in Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution;"

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23 **WHEREAS**, On May 1, 2020, Filipino migrant workers' group Migrante International has filed
24 an administrative complaint before the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) against
25 Macauyag and called for the immediate removal of the labor attaché from his post and apologize
26 to the government of Taiwan, to Ordidor, and to all Filipino migrant workers stating that the acts
27 committed against Ordidor were acts committed against all OFWs;"

28
29 **WHEREAS**, POLO's primary mandate is to uphold the rights and welfare of OFWs and that
30 includes their democratic right to freedom of expression;"

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32 **WHEREAS**, it is clear that aside from his ignorance of the law, Labor Attaché Fidel Macauyag
33 squandered government resources and his working time threatening an OFW who was only
34 expressing her views. Furthermore, Macauyag's actions placed our country in dire embarrassment
35 in the international community primarily with the Taiwanese government;"

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37 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives express its sense
38 to urge the Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III to recall Taiwan
39 Labor Attaché Fidel Macauyag for abusing his authority and failing in his mandate to protect
40 migrant workers overseas.

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REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

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REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist