

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 445



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

**CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO
GOVERNMENT PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
OF FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS DISPLACED BY THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) estimates that there are 10.4 million Filipinos working outside the country in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide as permanent, temporary, or irregular migrants;

WHEREAS, annual remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) amount to eight to ten percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and, in 2019, Filipinos worldwide remitted a record USD 30 billion to the domestic economy;

WHEREAS, a study by the International Labour Organization (ILO) found that the economic contributions of OFWs has led to a measurable decrease in poverty incidence in the Philippines – the data showed that the families of migrants moved up an average of 6 percentile points in the income distribution;

WHEREAS, despite these favorable outcomes, in a paper entitled *Women, Migration, and Reintegration*, authored by Estrella Dizon-Añonueva and Augustus T. Añonuevo, it was noted that despite years of hard work, the majority of migrant women did not have substantial savings and had no immediate plans of permanently returning home, and that they had difficulty in adjusting to estranged relations with their families and the lack of economic opportunities in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the same paper also highlighted the social cost of migration – marital discord due to distance and separation, emotional and psychosocial effects on children caused by the absence of one or both parents, and difficulties reintegrating into the community after an OFW's return to the Philippines;

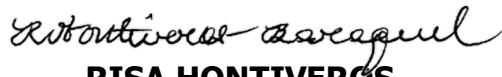
WHEREAS, according to the Department of Interior & Local Government (DILG) around 300,000 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are expected to return to the Philippines this year as a result of the effect of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the economies of their host countries;

WHEREAS, considering the substantial influx of Filipino migrant workers

displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic returning to the Philippines, perhaps permanently, it is essential that the government's return and reintegration programs take the needs of OFWs and their families into account in developing and implementing financial aid programs for households in distress, mental health and psycho-social services, and medical assistance in relation to COVID-19, including mandatory testing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO GOVERNMENT PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN OF FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS DISPLACED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator