



Republic of the Philippines
 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 Cotabato City

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 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY

Resolution No. 170 By: NORIA Y. TAHA

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Introduced by: BTA MEMBER DIAMILA DISIMBAN-RAMOS

Co-authors: BTA Members Abdulraof Macacua, Mohammad Yacob, Punduma Sani, Abdullah Gayak, Aida Silongan, Maleiha Candao, Sahie Udjah, Sittie Shaharah Mastura, Rasol Mitmug Jr., Abdullah Macapaar, Marjanie Macasalong, Basit Abbas, Ziaurrahman Adiong and Bainon Karon

A RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF BANGSAMORO DOMESTIC WORKERS AND ESTABLISH SUITABLE PROGRAMS TO SERVE AS ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR BANGSAMORO WOMEN WHO SEEK OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT AS DOMESTIC WORKERS

WHEREAS, Philippines is one of the world's top countries to deploy migrant domestic workers, averaging 86,000 Filipinos every year between 1992 and 2015.¹ In the recent official data released by Philippine Statistics Authority, out of the 2.3 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who worked abroad during the period April to September 2018, 437,000 OFWs hail from BARMM. Elementary occupations (37.1%) and service and sales workers (18.8%), to which domestic workers belong, was the biggest group of OFWs.² Most importantly, majority are female OFWs comprising 55.8% of the total number of OFWs;³

WHEREAS, the Bangsamoro Government has the power to "develop programs and laws for women" (*Sec. 1 [r], Art. V, RA 11054*) and shall "uphold and protect the fundamental rights of women, including the right to engage in lawful employment, and to be protected from exploitation, abuse, or discrimination, as embodied in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women" (*Sec. 12, Art 9, RA 11054*);

WHEREAS, it is also further stated that Bangsamoro Government shall provide for Comprehensive Framework for Sustainable Development which include among others "the reduction of the vulnerability of women" (*Sec. 3, Art XIII, RA 11054*);

¹ Torres, Estrella, "What will it take to protect Filipino domestic workers from abuse and exploitation in the Middle East?", *Equal Times*, 15 June 2017, available at <https://www.equaltimes.org/what-will-it-take-to-protect?lang=en#.XgYwVHduLIU> (last accessed: 28 December 2019).

² Total Number of OFWs Estimated at 2.3 Million (Results from the 2018 Survey on Overseas Filipinos), *Philippine Statistics Authority*, 27 June 2019, available at <http://www.psa.gov.ph/content/total-number-ofws-estimated-23-million-results-2018-survey-overseas-filipinos-0>, (last accessed: 26 December 2019).

³ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, most women OFWs are employed for domestic work with least social protection and labor laws in many countries.⁴ Accordingly, the hidden nature of domestic work within the private sphere of the employers' household and the informal employment arrangements, make domestic workers particularly vulnerable to difficult or abusive work situations.⁵ In fact, reports show that OFW women suffer from exploitation, forced labor, trafficking, discrimination and other forms of violence;⁶

WHEREAS, poverty, lack of economic opportunities and unfortunate social conditions, among others, prompt women to risk illegal recruitment and/or migration, and accept abusive working conditions;⁷

WHEREAS, in order to alleviate the pressures on domestic helpers to accept situations of abuse and exploitation, there is a need to broaden the understanding of the underlying issues, which played critical roles in the decision-making of women OFWs;

WHEREAS, as proposed measures to eventually stop the deployment of overseas domestic workers, the Bangsamoro Government should establish suitable programs such as skills training and upgrading, micro-credit financing and educational programs, and ultimately, generate employment, and provide alternative economic opportunities for Bangsamoro Women Domestic Workers to squarely address the root cause of women deployment overseas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority to call for the Bangsamoro Government to give attention to the plight of Bangsamoro Domestic Workers and establish suitable programs to serve as alternative economic opportunities for Bangsamoro Women who seek overseas employment as domestic workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to request the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to present a report on the status and condition of Bangsamoro Women deployed overseas as domestic workers to further provide context for the proposed measures.

Adopted,


DIAMILA DISIMBAN-RAMOS
Member, BTA Parliament

⁴ Montemayor, Maria Teresa. Safe and Fair PH: Realizing women OFWs' rights, *Philippine News Agency*, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1067390>, (last accessed: 28 December 2019).

⁵ Sayres, Nicole. "An Analysis of The Situation of Filipino Domestic Worker", *International Labour Organization*, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/@ilo-manila/documents/publication/wcms_124895.pdf, (last accessed: 26 December 2019).

⁶ Torres, *supra* Note 1.

⁷ Sayres, *supra* Note 5.

MP Abdulraof Macacua

MP Sittie Shaharah Mastura

MP Mohammad Yacob

MP Rasol Mitmug Jr.

MP Punduma Sani

MP Abdullah Macapaar

MP Abdullah Gayak

MP Marjanie Macasalong

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