

4 May 2017

**REPRESENTATIVE MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE, JR.**

Chairperson  
Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Velarde:**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 1072 or An Act Mandating Every Filipino Worker Bound for Deployment to Undergo Financial and Entrepreneurial Seminars Making it a Requirement for Deployment and Appropriating Funds Therefor and House Bill No. 1330 or An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8042, Otherwise Known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as Amended, Further Strengthening the Pre-Departure Orientation Program of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) filed by Representatives Scott Davies Lanete and Weslie Gatchalian, respectively.

To further enhance the bills, may we also share the following comments and recommendations:

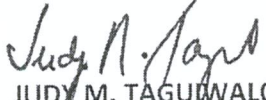
1. Consolidate the bills into one.
2. Instead of making attendance to financial and entrepreneurial seminars as a deployment requirement, the Committee may just consider strengthening the Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) or Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) by integrating financial and entrepreneurial concepts in the existing modules being used. This is to avoid duplication and unnecessary expenses on the part of the OFWs.
3. Aside from the topics being proposed for the PDOS, other factors which should be given consideration are:
  - a. The duration of the PDOS as against the number of modules being discussed to maximize the OFW's absorption of the needed information
  - b. How the modules may be customized for land and sea-based workers and per destination country. Further, how the said modules will encourage OFWs to set exit plans and the corresponding milestones which will lead them back to the country

- c. Rigorous monitoring of PDOS being conducted by affiliate Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure that these are delivered with quality.
4. Explore the possibility of conducting PDOS at the regional or provincial level, with at least one (1) responsible member from the OFW's family so they will be aware of and be prepared for possible challenges their family may encounter in the duration of the overseas employment.
5. POEA, OWWA and DFA should strengthen the Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) and the Post Arrival Orientation Seminar (PAOS) as venues to address the future concerns of OFWs.

Further, it is recommended that the Philippine posts (including Consulates and Embassies and their attached agencies under the One Country Team Approach) be able to monitor the situation and concerns of OFWs in their areas of jurisdiction through the conduct of regular activities with their respective Filipino communities.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUINALDO  
Secretary