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;

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

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

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

Adopted,

[Signature]

RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
TUCP Partylist

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2 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.”

3 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.