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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 420



Introduced by
Representative RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA (TUCP)

**A RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR A HOUSE INQUIRY INTO THE CONTINUED RECRUITMENT AND
DEPLOYMENT OF MINORS AND UNDER-AGED WORKERS TO THE MIDDLE
EAST AS DOMESTIC WORKERS IN AID OF LEGISLATION AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, despite ongoing efforts to curb human trafficking, various government agencies have identified the recruitment and deployment of minors and under-aged women as domestic workers to the Middle East;

WHEREAS, recently, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) suspended two licensed recruitment agencies for sending a 17-year old and a 14-year old to work as domestic workers in Saudi Arabia;

WHEREAS, prior to this incident, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the Bureau of Immigration, and the National Bureau of Investigation stationed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport have reported the repatriation as well as interception at the airport of several minors bound for or who returned from the Middle East;

WHEREAS, under existing rules and regulations, only women aged twenty-three years (23) and above can apply and be accepted as overseas domestic workers;

WHEREAS, majority of the deployed minors hail from Mindanao with passports obtained from the DFA's consular office in Cotabato City;

WHEREAS, the DFA-issued passports bear a fake entry depicting the age of the holder to be twenty-three (23) rather than their actual ages as minors;

WHEREAS, the recruitment and deployment of minors to the Middle East can be a form of qualified human trafficking, a non-bailable crime under the Anti-Trafficking Act;

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WHEREAS, despite the gravity of the offense, several licensed recruitment agencies continue to accept applicants of questionable age especially from Mindanao, thereby endangering the lives of these minors and under-aged women;

WHEREAS, given these facts, it is incumbent upon Congress through the Committee on OFW Affairs to exercise its oversight functions in determining the magnitude of this problem concerning the trafficking of minors and women to the Middle East as domestic workers;

WHEREAS, it is also urgent to look into the provision of aftercare services for these young human trafficking victims to include temporary shelter, scholarships, legal and other forms of assistance such as livelihood opportunities for their parents to prevent re-victimization of the minors;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House Committee on OFW Affairs conduct an inquiry into the continued recruitment and deployment of minors and under-aged women to the Middle East as domestic workers contrary to existing laws and rules and regulations, in aid of legislation, and for other purposes.

Signed,



RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
TUCP Partylist