Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2367  

Introduced by MARINO Party-list Representatives  
SANDRO L. GONZALEZ  
and MACNELL M. LUSOTAN  

RESOLUTION  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO EXTEND PASSPORT VALIDITY OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS AND LAND-BASED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS BY TWO (2) YEARS.  

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Affairs has publicly admitted that is currently facing a backlog of approximately four (4) million passport applications and renewals, which continue to accrue because of the limited slots being offered daily for processing of passports, and especially due to the approaching holiday season when there is increased inbound and outbound travels of Filipinos;  

WHEREAS, as part of the documentary requirements for deployment, seafarers and land-based OFWs are required to possess a valid Philippine passport, among others. In the case of seafarers, it has been an industry practice to hold a passport with at least 18 months of validity prior to deployment;  

WHEREAS, the seafarers were recognized as “key workers” by the national government. To cater to their travel and documentation needs, several agencies signed and committed to implement Joint Circular No. 1, series of 2020, otherwise known as the Guidelines for the Establishment of the Philippine Green Lane for Seafarers, containing among others, the responsibilities of the relevant National Government Agencies relative to the immediate deployment of seafarers;  

WHEREAS, likewise recognizing the importance land-based OFWs being gainfully employed abroad, the POEA issued Memorandum Circular No. 01, series of 2021, which provides for the guidelines for the deployment of land-based OFWs, stating the provision of Green Lane, taking into consideration the complexities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related protocols to prevent its spread;  

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been a major workforce provider globally, deploying about 2,000,000 Filipinos annually. The country’s deployment figures peaked in 2019, just before the pandemic, at 2,156,742 Filipinos, of which, 507,730 are sea-based workers. In the same year, OFWs were able to remit and contribute a total of USD 30.133 Billion or approximately PHP 1.5 trillion to the Philippine economy;  

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis forced national governments to adopt and implement extraordinary measures to curb the pandemic, including the implementation of border and...
travel restrictions which prevent seafarers and land-based OFWs from going to consular offices abroad to process their passports and other deployment related documents. The present extraordinary situation warrants the use of extraordinary means to address the passport issue;

WHEREAS, the delay in the processing of passports might result in lost employment opportunities and the replacement of Filipino seafarers and land-based OFWs by other nationalities whose governments can immediately issue their workers’ deployment documents. Unfortunate as it may sound, there is an urgent need on the part of the government to support the deployment of OFWs through the extension of the validity of their passports to give them opportunity to be gainfully employed abroad while employment opportunities in the country remain scarce;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives urges the Department of Foreign Affairs, through the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, to extend the passport validity of all Overseas Filipino Workers due for deployment within 120 days or are currently in the foreign workplaces by two (2) years upon the approval of this measure.

Adopted,

SANDRO L. GONZALEZ
Representative
MARINO Party-list

MACNELL M. LUSOTAN
Representative
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