

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution - 1123



Introduced by

Gabriela Women's Party Representatives

LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA and LUZVIMINDA ILAGAN,

Anakpawis Party List Representatives RAFAEL MARIANO and JOEL MAGLUNSOD, Bayan
Muna Party List Representatives SATUR OCAMPO, TEODORO CASINO and NERI
COLMENARES, and Kabataan Partylist Representative RAYMOND PALATINO

RESOLUTION

CALLING ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS ON FILIPINO WORKERS, PARTICULARLY ON THE EXTENT OF RETRENCHMENT AND DISLOCATION OF WOMEN WORKERS, AND ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND RECOMMEND MEASURES THAT WOULD PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO THE WORKERS AND ENSURE THAT THEIR RIGHTS AND WELFARE ARE PROTECTED AS WELL AS MEASURES THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE NATIONAL IMPACT OF SUCH MASSIVE WORK DISPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, the 2005 data of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) revealed that 75 to 80% of all workers in the economic zones are women;

WHEREAS, most of the reported retrenchments as a result of the economic crisis happened in the economic zones in different parts of the country;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) through DOLE Assistant Secretary Reydeluz Conferido said in a media report that retrenchment due to financial crisis is estimated to reach 11,000 as of the first quarter of 2009. Conferido also estimated around 40,000 Filipino workers to have been working under reduced working hours as legalized by DOLE;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment released Department Advisory No. 2 or Guidelines on the Adoption of Flexible Work Arrangements which include compressed workweek, reduction of workdays, rotation of workers, forced leave, broken-time schedule, and flexi-holidays schedule;

WHEREAS, members of the Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW) and Workers Assistance Center (WAC) said that DOLE Advisory No. 2 only legalized the existing anti-labor flexible labor arrangements being implemented by various companies in the economic zones, and in other parts of the country. The companies have been implementing these schemes in order to do away with the benefits due of the workers that are mandatory as provided by existing laws;

WHEREAS, based on the study conducted by WAC and SCW covering 108 factories in Cavite, the total workforce affected by way of lay-off, forced leave/vacation or shortened working hours is pegged between 85,467 to 89,167 workers. Most of the affected workers are employed in the electronics and semiconductors, garments and apparel, and car and automotive industries;

WHEREAS, the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR), another group researching on the impact of the global crisis on workers in different parts of the country monitored some 40, 713 retrenched and dislocated workers since the last quarter of 2008;

WHEREAS, some of the retrenched workers attempted to apply in other companies only to face discriminatory and stringent requirements, such as requiring women applicants to undergo virginity tests in order to comply with the "Must be a Virgin" requirement;

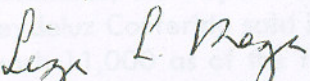
WHEREAS, the SCW also stressed that the massive retrenchments, flexible labor arrangements and the discriminatory requirements of some companies has increasingly resulted to the *informalization* of labor or increase in the number of informal sector workers. Some retrenched workers resorted to selling street foods in order to sustain the daily needs of their family, while others are forced to enter into odd-jobs, such as "palit-bigas" and "palit-upa," in order to earn a living;

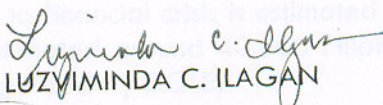
WHEREAS, the Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (KMK) believes that the government's response, through the stimulus program, do not address the current plight of the Filipino workers especially those retrenched and dislocated workers of whom women workers comprise the majority. The KMK claims that the government's job creation programs are gender-biased for the biggest chunk of the budget is allotted for infrastructure projects that will employ mostly male workers and only insignificant number of female workers;

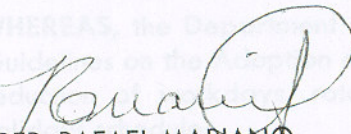
WHEREAS, given the plight of women workers even before the crisis hit the country and their even worsening condition at present, there is an immediate need for Congress to look into the different issues raised by different workers' and women's organizations;

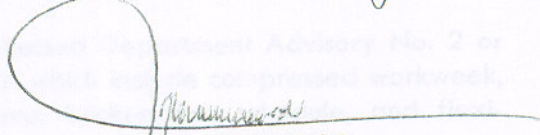
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives Committee on Labor and Employment and Committee on Women and Gender Equality conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the impact of the global economic crisis on Filipino workers, particularly on the extent of retrenchment and dislocation of women workers, and on our economy, and recommend measures that would provide immediate relief to the workers and ensure that their rights and welfare are protected, as well as measures that would address the national impact of such massive work displacement.

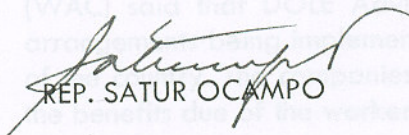
Adopted,

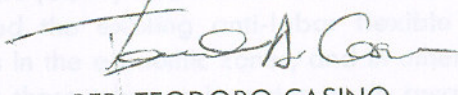

REP. LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA


REP. LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN


REP. RAFAEL MARIANO


REP. JOEL MAGLUNSOD


REP. SATUR OCAMPO


REP. TEODORO CASINO


REP. NERI COLMENARES


REP. RAYMOND PALATINO