

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4898

Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

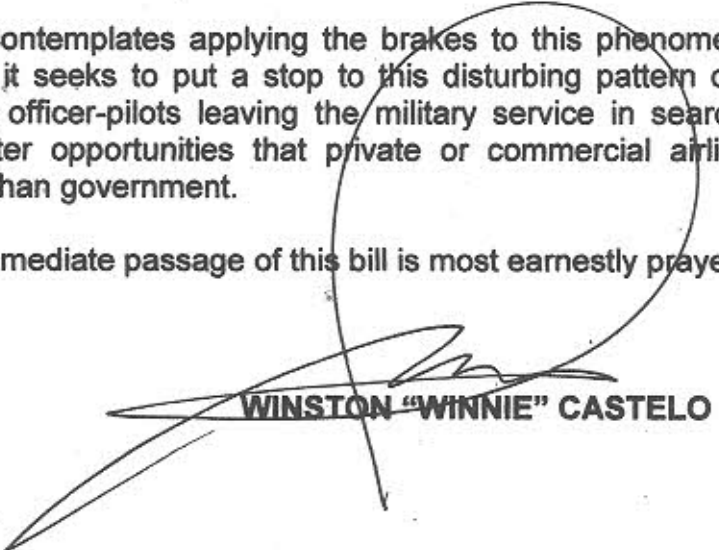
It is of highest national interest to keep a country's military air force, in this case, the Philippine Air Force to be at par with not just any like military organization in the world but more so with its private counterpart, the every vibrant and thriving airline industry which has become home to seasoned and veteran pilots who trained from their respective Air Forces.

It is in light of these developments that this bill has been contemplated fearing the possible exodus of our very own PAF-trained, seasoned, and veteran military pilots in favor of better and higher paying jobs in airline industries here or abroad.

The Philippines cannot afford its officer-pilots from PAF to be pirated by private or commercial airlines since government has spent considerably for their training that it will be a constant cycle of financial losses if the pattern continues. Besides, with the new although seasonal acquisition of more aircrafts for PAF must also come the retention of highly qualified officer-pilots to be trained as well as to train other pilots in the military service.

This bill contemplates applying the brakes to this phenomenon of 'brain drain'. Further, it seeks to put a stop to this disturbing pattern or behavior of more and more officer-pilots leaving the military service in search of greener pastures or better opportunities that private or commercial airlines are in a position to offer than government.

Hence, immediate passage of this bill is most earnestly prayed.


WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
GRANTING THIRTY PERCENT (30%) INCREASE IN BASIC SALARIES OF
EVERY OFFICER-PILOT OF THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE FOLLOWING A
CONTRACT OF SERVICE ADJUSTED TO A MINIMUM OF TEN (10) YEARS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled;

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to secure its sovereignty and the integrity of the national territory as these are essential for the enjoyment of the people of the blessings of democracy.

SEC. 2. Coverage of the Act. – There shall be granted to every officer-pilot of the Philippine Air Force following a contract of service adjusted to a minimum of ten (10) years a thirty percent (30%) increase in basic salary.

SEC. 3. Appropriation. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment and every year thereafter.

SEC. 4. Implementation. – The Department of National Defense shall issue rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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MONDAY, JULY 4, 2011

The Philippine STAR **NEWS**

Air Force considers extension of pilots' contract

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) is considering increasing the length of its pilots' contract of service to ten years from eight years to ensure that it would have enough manpower to operate its assets.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Oscar Rabena said such measure is being studied even if the number of pilots leaving the service to join the private sector had already decreased.

"We are looking to ensure that we have sufficient number of pilots that will be able to operate our aircraft and at the same time perform the various tasks," Rabena said, adding that they have a policy which bars a pilot from

leaving until a replacement has been found. "We will not release a test pilot if there is nobody who can replace him. It's important that we maintain the required number of qualifications, test pilots, instructor pilots in a particular unit before we can allow one pilot to leave," he said.

Rabena said the acquisition of new trainer planes could encourage pilots to join the service.

"The good news is that we now have many trainer aircraft, 18 basic trainer aircraft, SF-260, we have at least 15 T41 aircraft so we have now increased the number of students. We expect

that we can train them in a short time," he said.

Rabena said the number of the service last year was lower than that of the previous years. He said pilots moved to private airlines as many as 50 during the year.

The Air Force has bought 18 trainer aircraft from Italy-based Leonardo, which completed its delivery of the whole package amounted to P60 million.

The SF-260 is a propeller-driven plane that has been the backbone of the Force schools for the past decade.

Immigration defends tough screening of departing Pinoys

By RUDY SANTOS

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) defended yesterday the strict screening of Filipinos departing abroad, saying that it is necessary to prevent the exodus of victims of human trafficking, illegal recruitment and even couriers of illegal drugs.

"They should understand that we are doing this to protect our poor countrymen from being victimized by criminal syndicates who take advantage of their poverty and their desire for greener pastures abroad," Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. said in a statement.

David said the BI's campaign against human trafficking requires the stricter screening of departing Filipino tourists,

for Europe and the Middle East. Airport sources who asked not to be named said that relatives of departing passengers that were prevented from leaving have complained that the "freedom of Filipinos to travel is over, especially those who belong to the middle class of our society."

"We have no more right to travel abroad, even though we have money to spend, poor Filipinos," they said in Filipino.

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