

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 70



Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prioritize the immediate descendant of a distressed overseas Filipino worker in the availment of Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Fund which was created under Republic Act (RA) No. 8042, otherwise known as the "*Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995*."

Last year, the spate of political unrests in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa coupled with natural disasters in Japan and New Zealand had caused the highest number of OFW displacements. Their forced homecoming was saddled with unpaid obligations, unemployment and a bleak future for their families.

To assist our distressed OFWs in times of financial uncertainty due to involuntary repatriation, and in recognition of the significant contribution of our *mga bagong bayani* to the national economy through their foreign exchange remittances, we find it most opportune to resuscitate the Congressional Migrant Workers' Scholarship Fund and use it for the college scholarship of at least one of their children or dependents.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____ **70**

Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

AN ACT
PROVIDING PRIORITY TO THE IMMEDIATE DESCENDANT OF DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER IN THE AVAILMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 37 of Republic Act No 8042, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 37. The Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Fund. –
There is hereby created a Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Fund which shall benefit deserving migrant workers and/or their immediate descendants below twenty-one (21) years of age who intend to pursue courses or training primarily in the field of science and technology. IN THE CASE OF IMMEDIATE DESCENDANTS, HOWEVER, PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE CHILD OF A DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER (OFW).*"*

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, A DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER SHALL REFER TO AN OFW WHO IS REPATRIATED BY REASON OF NATURAL DISASTERS, POLITICAL UNREST, ABUSIVE EMPLOYERS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL ABUSE AND ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT.

The initial seed fund of Two hundred million pesos (P200,000,000.00) shall be constituted from the following sources:

(a) Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) from the unexpended Countrywide Development Fund for 1995 in equal sharing by all Members of Congress; and

(b) The remaining One hundred fifty million pesos (P150,000,000.00) shall be funded from the proceeds of Lotto draws.

The Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Fund as herein created shall be administered by the DOLE in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). To carry out the objectives of this section, the DOLE and the DOST shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations."

SEC. 2. Section 38 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 38. *Appropriation and Other Sources of Funding.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

TO RESTORE THE OPERATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND, THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P100,000,000.00) IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED: *PROVIDED*, THAT FIFTY PERCENT (50%) THEREOF SHALL BE UTILIZED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OF THE IMMEDIATE DESCENDANTS OF DISTRESSED OFWS. THEREAFTER, THE AMOUNT AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE INTERNALLY GENERATED INCOME OF OWWA."

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,