

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3719

Introduced by
OFW Family Party-List Representative ROY V. SEÑERES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

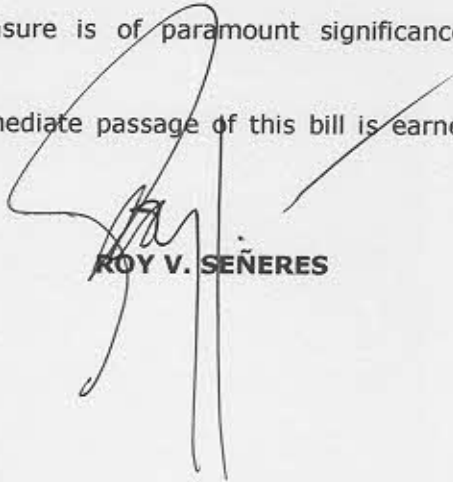
This bill seeks to promote the welfare and well-being of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in furtherance of the constitutionally mandated recognition that labor is a primary social economic force (Section 18, Article II, 1987 Constitution).

A question comes to mind: "Why do Filipino workers seek employment overseas?" And, "What drive Filipinos to go to foreign countries of totally different cultures, religion, and forms of government?" The answers to these questions could be varied. Say, for instance, we do not have enough and/or sufficient employment opportunities in the country. Indeed, our Filipino workers are motivated to give their families and loved ones the amenities of good and quality life. In the process, our OFWs made personal sacrifices of endangering their personal safety against unscrupulous foreign employers.

Equally significant is the emotional aspect of working overseas will have to be confronted by the overseas Filipino workers, such as, loneliness, homesickness, culture-shocks experience, living away from loved ones back home for a long period of time, to name a few. Accordingly, we need something to enliven their spirit. We need to bring joy and merriment to our OFWs by staging musical and comedy shows with the participation of Filipino singers, movie stars, comedians, and other Filipino entertainers free of charge. Hence, the staging of live shows, at least every year, will be in the following four (4) regions: Middle East, Europe, Asia and the Americas, where a sizeable number of OFWs are concentrated and/or located. This is what we call - '**HATID SAYA**'.

Verily, the passage of this measure is of paramount significance in honoring our modern-day heroes.

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


ROY V. SEÑERES

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**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE 'HATID SAYA' FOR OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS EVERY SIX (6) MONTHS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. **Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Hatid Saya for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) Act of 2013.”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the declared policy of this Act to promote the welfare and well-being of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in furtherance of the constitutionally mandated recognition that labor is a primary social economic force (Section 18, Article II, 1987 Constitution).

SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined to mean as:

- (a) “*Overseas Filipino Worker*” shall refer to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a legal resident. A person “to be engaged in a remunerated activity” refers to an applicant worker who has been promised or assured employment overseas and acting on such promise or assurance sustains damage and/or injury.

The term "Overseas Filipino Worker" shall be used interchangeable with "Migrant worker".

- (b) "*Overseas Filipinos*" shall refer to migrant workers, other Filipino nationals and their dependents abroad.
- (c) "*Legal Resident*" shall refer to a person who has obtained permanent residency status in accordance with the law of the host country.
- (d) "*Host Country*" shall refer to a country or State where overseas Filipinos are located or found.
- (e) "*Hatid Saya*" shall refer to bringing joy and merriment to OFWs in their host countries by staging musical and comedy shows with the participation of Filipino singers, movie stars, comedians, and other Filipino entertainers. The Hatid Saya is intended to relieve OFWs of their loneliness, anxiety, homesickness, culture-shocks experience, and living away from loved ones back home.
- (f) "*DOLE*" shall refer to the Department of Labor and Employment.
- (g) "*DFA*" shall refer to the Department of Foreign Affairs.
- (h) "*POEA*" shall refer to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.
- (i) "*OWWA*" shall refer to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

SEC. 4. ***Hatid Saya Program.*** – The 'Hatid Saya' for OFWs is hereby institutionalized under this Act. Accordingly, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall be the lead agencies, in coordination with the Philippine Embassies, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in institutionalizing and undertaking a permanent program of HATID SAYA to OFWs at least once every year in each of the following four (4) regions: Middle East, Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

SEC. 5. ***Appropriations.*** – There is hereby appropriated the sum of Fifty Million Pesos (Php50,000,000.00) to fund the initial budgetary

requirements of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in coordination with the Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,