

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5896

Introduced by Honorable Kimi S. Cojuangco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, there are 807 Filipinos jailed in various countries due to drug smuggling as of July 2014. International drug smuggling has continued to plague our country for years. Syndicates prey on our OFWs and those desperate to make a living to support their family. It is our duty to protect our citizens from these situations.

This proposed measure seeks to improve the standard module of the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) that is required by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The PDOS was implemented by the OWWA as a means to educate and ready OFWs for their employment abroad. The seminar educates them on their rights as migrant workers, counsels them on how to deal with the first few months away from home, provides guideline on health and safety, gives a general orientation of the country they were going to, and provides information on government programs and support services available to them.

This bill aims to include topics that tackle drug syndicates, their modes of operation in targeting OFWs, general reminders and safety guidelines to avoid being victimized. To that end, different agencies will be consulted to provide the most updated and relevant information to ensure a comprehensive discussion is achieved.

The goal of this measure is to prevent our OFWs from being victimized by educating them on how these syndicates operate. If they are properly educated on the issue, they can take the necessary measures to safeguard themselves during their travels. As long as these syndicates are around, our citizens are in constant danger of being targeted. The PDOS is one way we can prepare and protect our OFWs.

As representatives of our people, we must do all we can to prevent them from falling victim to drug smuggling. We cannot allow any more of our countrymen to be imprisoned and executed as innocent victims. For the safety of our OFWs, the passage of this measure is sought.



HON. KIMI S. COJUANGCO

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5696

Introduced by Honorable Kimi S. Cojuangco

AN ACT
INTEGRATING IN THE STANDARD MODULE FOR PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION SEMINAR GIVEN TO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS THE TOPIC CONCERNING THE MODUS OPERANDI OF ILLEGAL DRUG SYNDICATES AS A STEP TO INSULATE FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS AGAINST THEIR NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES

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

SECTION 1. There shall be integrated in the standard module for Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) given to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and OWWA-Accredited PDOS Providers a topic concerning the modus operandi of illegal drug syndicates as a measure to protect Filipino migrant workers against the criminal activities of these criminal groups.

Such topic shall cover an extensive discussion about the mode of operations, methods and systems being employed by drug syndicates to lure unwitting migrant workers to become drug mules; practical tips on how to safeguard oneself from being victimized and what to do when under suspicion of being compromised; updates regarding cases of Filipinos involved in drug smuggling abroad; the existing laws of the country of destination governing illegal drugs and the penalties imposed therefor; and, such other related matters as would elicit a comprehensive orientation on illicit drug trafficking.

SEC. 2. The OWWA or its partner for the training of OWWA-PDOS Trainers shall include in its training program such instruction as would prepare and enable PDOS trainers to be competent speakers or lecturers of the said topic.

The OWWA may coordinate and consult with other appropriate agencies such as the Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug

Enforcement Agency and the National Bureau of Investigation in order to secure the necessary knowledge, inputs, data, materials and information relative to the operations of illegal drug syndicates and drug smuggling.

SEC. 3. The orientation of OFWs about the subject shall be conducted up to such a duration as would provide the PDOS Trainer sufficient or reasonable time to competently and exhaustively lecture on the subject, and an in-depth discussion thereof to achieve the desired service outcome.

SEC. 4. The OWWA shall continue to formulate and undertake a parallel program for undocumented or irregular migrant workers. It shall also endeavor to find the appropriate mechanism to protect them from drug syndicates and other criminal organizations preying on this class of migrant workers.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, board resolutions, administrative orders, memoranda of instructions, special orders, and other issuances, or part/s thereof, contrary to or are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. If any provision or part hereof is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,