

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8218



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

News of abuses against Filipino migrant workers grace mainstream media a lot more frequently than before. More surprising are the abuses that happen while our Filipino Overseas Workers are in the custody of fellow Filipinos. Accounts of migrant workers being abused by Philippine government officials abroad astound especially as we expect a certain standard of morals from our public servants.

In order to prevent these cases from happening again, this representation proposes to address this by amending Republic Act No. 8042 to include an additional provision stating that officials or employees of the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, or the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, or the Department of Foreign Affairs, or other government agencies involved that are stationed abroad and proven to be committing the abuses against migrant workers in their custody to be criminally prosecuted in the Philippines. The acts to be penalized, such as child abuse, exploitation, trafficking, sexual harassment and rape, or violence against women, are listed in the proposed bill.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8218

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
ENHANCING PROTECTION FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN THE
CUSTODY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS/EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 8042

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

SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act 8042 is hereby amended to include a Section 8-A as follows:

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES. – It shall be unlawful for any official or employee of the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, or the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, or the Department of Foreign Affairs, or other government agencies involved in the implementation of this Act, or their relatives within the fourth civil degree or consanguinity or affinity, to engage, directly or indirectly, in the business of recruiting migrant workers as defined in this Act. The penalties shall be imposed upon them.

SEC. 8-A. OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION, OR THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION, OR THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT THAT ARE STATIONED ABROAD COMMITTING THE FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS OF SPECIAL LAW AGAINST MIGRANT WORKERS IN THEIR CUSTODY SHALL BE CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES:

- (A) REPUBLIC ACT 7610 OR SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT
- (B) REPUBLIC ACT 9262 OR ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT
- (C) REPUBLIC ACT 9208 OR THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 2003
- (D) REPUBLIC ACT 9710 OR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR WOMEN
- (E) REPUBLIC ACT 7877 OR THE ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT OR 1995
- (F) REPUBLIC ACT 8353 OR THE ANTI-RAPE LAW OF 1997

SECTION 2. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,