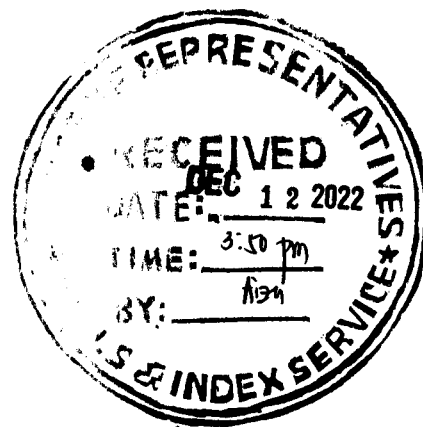


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6612

Introduced by **REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIII, Section 3, provides that:

The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.

Moreover, under Article II, Section 18, to wit:

The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.

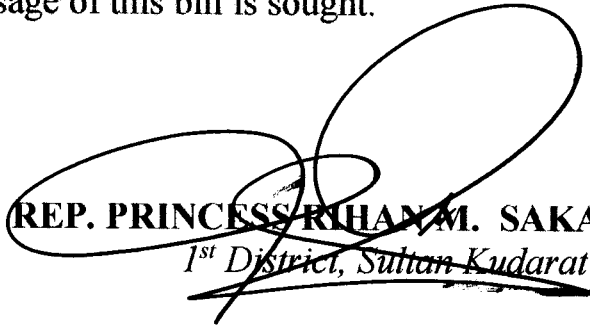
Overseas Filipino workers are referred to as modern-day heroes. They are also considered as a vital partners of Philippine development as a result of their remittances. In a report released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on March 7, 2022, it is said that before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019, OFWs were registered at 2.18 million.¹ Based on the data presented by the Philippine Overseas Employment administration (POEA) during a Senate budget hearing, the number of deployed OFWs in 2022 was 1,394,788, which is lower compared to the 2 million for the entire 2019.²

¹ <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/09/27/news/migrant-workers-dept-paves-way-for-job-opportunities-for-ofws/1860056>

² Ibid.

This bill seeks to provide a monthly social pension benefit amounting to PhP 3,000 in favor of the OFWs. To effectively implement the distribution of the monthly social pensions, a database of all OFWs should be created by the DMW. Renewed efforts must be made to collect comprehensive, accurate and updated information that can be disaggregated according to a wide range of variables as a basis for effective planning and implementation services, and monitoring and evaluation. The provision of this monthly social pension would uplift the lives of the OFW in the same manner that they boost our economy through remittances.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.



REP. PRINCESS RIHAN M. SAKALURAN

1st District, Sultan Kudarat

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **6612**

Introduced by **REP. PRINCESS RIHAN M. SAKALURAN**

AN ACT
PROVIDING SOCIAL PENSION TO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
WHO REACHED THEIR RETIREMENT

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “OFW Social Pension Act”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, rising standard of living and an improved quality of life.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. – Overseas Filipino Workers under this act shall refer to Filipino migrant workers who was employed in another country for a period of time.

Section 4. Coverage. – Qualified Overseas Filipino Workers shall be entitled to a monthly pension in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) per month.

Section 5. Qualifications. – Qualifying conditions of Overseas Filipino Workers who are entitled to a monthly pension:

- a. At least 60 years old with accumulated 15 years of overseas employment

- b. OFW Registered with the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency;

Provided, that Overseas Filipino Workers covered by the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, the Pension system for the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Military Personnel shall not be eligible for this benefit.

Section 6. Tax exemption. – All laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the benefits herein granted shall be exempt from any tax.

Section 7. Implementing agency. – The Department of Migrant Workers is mandated as the central planning, coordinating, implementing agency with the responsibilities to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Migrant Workers shall within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations of the provisions of this Act.

Section 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement this act shall be added to the regular appropriations of the Department of Migrant Workers in the General Appropriation Act.

Section 10. Separability clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. Repealing clause. – All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 12. Effectivity clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.