

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

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7065



Introduced by **Hon. WILTER YAP PALMA**

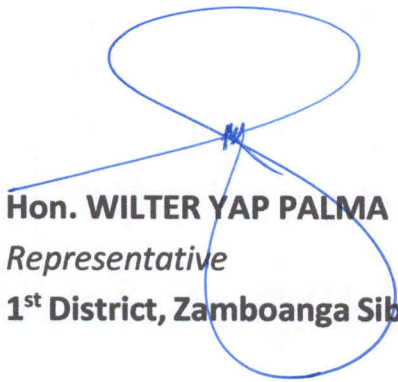
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Statistics Authority (2023) states that there is a total number of 2.3 Million OFWs deployed abroad, 97% of which are those with existing work contract while according to the International Labor Organization (2022) there are about a 11 million Filipinos living abroad who are also sending remittances back to the Philippines. Since their advent in the 1980's, these workers are now often hailed as our "Modern Day Heroes" due to their gargantuan contribution to the rapid rise of the Philippine Economy through their remittances. In fact, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (2021), a total of \$34.9 billion remittances was recorded which accounts to 8.9% of our gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021. By entering various jobs overseas, OFWs have greatly contributed to the reduction of poverty within the country and have played an integral part in transforming our once-struggling financial sector into a blossoming one today.

However, despite being viewed as heroes, they are still being accosted by a number of issues within various international airports in the country. To put things into perspective, due to their lack of personal funds for hotel accommodation and the like, a lot of OFWs are forced to sleep on the benches of Ninoy Aquino International Airport and other similar international airports just so they won't miss their flight while others would have to forego their meals while at the airport just so they would have enough money to get to their destination.

It is clear that this treatment is not befitting for our so called “Modern Day Heroes”, as key economic pillars of the country they deserve to be treated with the utmost respect and admiration due to the sacrifices that they have made just to provide a better life for them and their families. Thus, this bill aims to provide such respect and treatment that they so deserve by establishing an OFW Resting Lounge within every airport charting international flights in the country with the sole purpose of catering to the welfare of every active OFW by providing them with the necessary facilities and amenities that would be of help to them as they embark towards their next destination, a proper send-off that is befitting for a “hero”.

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



Hon. WILTER YAP PALMA
Representative
1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay

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Quezon City, Philippines

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7065

Introduced by **HON. WILTER YAP PALMA**

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
(OFWs) RESTING LOUNGE IN ALL AIRPORTS CHARTERING INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS IN THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be referred to as the “*OFW Resting Lounge*
2 *Act*”.

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 bolster the importance of the Overseas Filipino Workers as a driving force in the
5 nation’s economy and nation building. Towards this end, the State shall adopt
6 measures that would protect the well-being of the Overseas Filipino Workers by
7 providing adequate and timely services that would safeguard their rights and
8 promote their welfare.

9 **SECTION 3. Establishment of an OFW Resting Lounge.** – The National Government
10 through the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Overseas Workers Welfare
11 Administration (OWWA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the
12 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall establish an OFW Resting Lounge in all
13 airports chartering international flights in the country which would primarily cater

to the welfare of all active Overseas Filipino Workers with existing contracts in the country.

SECTION 4. *Purposes and Objectives.* – This Act shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a. Establish, operate and maintain an OFW Resting Lounge situated in every airport within the country chartering international flights equipped with the necessary amenities and facilities that could be used by all active Overseas Filipino Workers with existing contracts, free of charge.
- b. These OFW Resting Lounges shall serve as the primary resting area for all active Overseas Filipino Workers with existing contracts flying out or within the country where they are able to relax while waiting for their respective flights.

SECTION 5. *Facilities and Amenities.* – For the purpose of this Act, all OFW Resting Lounges in every airport chartering international flights in the country shall have the following facilities and amenities, including but not limited to:

- a. Gadget charging stations;
- b. Complementary snacks and drinks area;
- c. Shower and Comfort rooms;
- d. Sleeping quarters; and
- e. Monitors and/or speakers to track boarding and departure times.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall cover the necessary appropriations for the implementation of this Act through a cost-sharing scheme. The said funds for the construction and maintenance of the lounges shall be included within the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), in coordination with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE),

43 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the
44 implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

45 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
46 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
47 provisions hereof.

48 **SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules
49 and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
50 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

51 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
52 publication in *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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54 *Approved,*