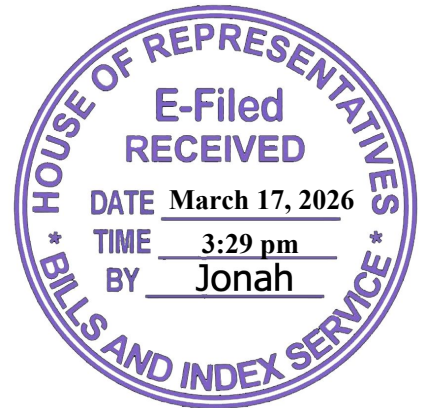


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8613



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) SLEEPING QUARTERS AT THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND RESTING LOUNGES IN ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS WHICH CATER FLIGHTS TO AND OUT OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Millions of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) endure the physical, emotional, and financial burdens of working abroad, often navigating complex and exhausting travel arrangements in the process. Despite their vital role, many OFWs face long layovers, delayed flights, and inadequate airport facilities upon departure from or arrival in the country. This bill seeks to address these gaps by institutionalizing a system of care that reflects the government's commitment to uphold their welfare and dignity.

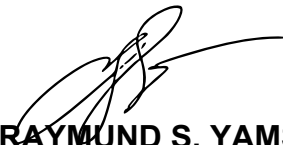
This measure mandates the establishment of OFW Airport Rest and Transit Facilities in all international airports across the country. These facilities are envisioned as safe, accessible, and dignified spaces where OFWs can rest and recover while awaiting flights or completing travel procedures. By mandating the provision of essential amenities—such as comfortable seating, charging stations, shower facilities, real-time flight information systems, and dedicated help desks—the bill ensures that OFWs are afforded not only convenience but also humane and respectful treatment.

The bill further strengthens its responsiveness by requiring the establishment of dedicated sleeping quarters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), particularly for OFWs coming from provinces who must endure overnight stays due to connecting travel. These accommodations are designed to provide secure and

sanitary lodging, complete with basic necessities, addressing a long-standing concern among OFWs who are often left with no choice but to sleep on benches or in public waiting areas, exposing them to discomfort and potential security risks.

Ultimately, more than a matter of convenience, this measure affirms the nation's gratitude by guaranteeing that every OFW is treated with the proper care they rightfully deserve.

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



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN

Representative

2nd District of Parañaque

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

Section 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be referred to as the "OFW Transit Care Act".

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

SEC. 3. Establishment of OFW Airport Rest and Transit Facilities. — In recognition of the sacrifices of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and the logistical challenges they face in international travel, the National Government, through the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), in coordination with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and other concerned airport authorities, shall establish, operate, and maintain OFW Airport Rest and Transit Facilities in all airports chartering international flights in the country.

These facilities shall serve as safe, accessible, and dignified spaces where OFWs may rest while awaiting departure, arrival processing, or connecting flights.

- (a) OFW Resting Lounges. — All international airports shall provide a designated OFW Resting Lounge open twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, free of charge, which shall include, at a minimum:
- (i) Comfortable seating areas;
 - (ii) Gadget charging stations;
 - (iii) Shower and sanitary facilities;
 - (iv) Monitors and/or speakers to track boarding and departure times; and
 - (v) Assistance or help desks for OFW-related concerns.
- (b) Dedicated Sleeping Quarters at NAIA. — In addition to the general resting lounges, the DMW shall establish, operate, and maintain dedicated sleeping quarters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), which shall primarily cater to OFWs residing outside Metro Manila who are required to stay overnight or for extended waiting periods due to flight schedules, domestic connecting travel, or similar circumstances. The sleeping quarters shall:
- (i) Be open twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week;
 - (ii) Be made available free of charge or at a highly subsidized rate, as may be provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR);
 - (iii) Provide safe, secure, gender-responsive, and clean sleeping accommodations;
 - (iv) Include secure luggage storage, potable water, sanitation facilities, and basic personal care amenities; and
 - (v) Adopt reasonable verification procedures to ensure that only qualified OFWs may avail of the facility.

The DMW shall ensure that all Airport Rest and Transit Facilities are compliant with airport security protocols and standards.

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The DMW shall, together with the OWWA and the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act. The IRR shall provide detailed guidelines on eligibility, duration of stay, facility management, inter-agency coordination, and future expansion of similar sleeping quarters to other international gateways as may be necessary.

The promulgation shall be made in coordination with the key government agencies mentioned in this Act, and in consultation with concerned GOCCs, especially those giving grants, extending loans, and providing technical assistance to MSMEs, and other relevant stakeholders in the private sector and NGOs.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments

and agencies concerned. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. — If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,