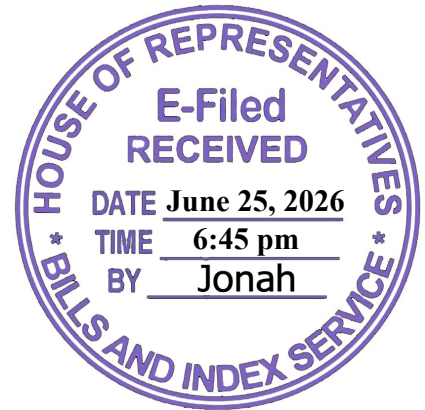


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9953



Introduced by **Representative JEFFREY SORIANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Digitalized Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Welfare and Monitoring System (DOWMS) under the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) to ensure the efficient delivery of services to OFWs worldwide through a secure and integrated digital system.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, personal remittances from OFWs reached a record of more than Thirty eight billion dollars (\$38.3 Billion) in 2024¹, highlighting their significant contribution to national development and their vital role in sustaining the Philippine economy. Despite their economic importance, many OFWs continue to experience illegal recruitment, labor exploitation, contract violations, human trafficking, abandonment, and difficulties in accessing government assistance while abroad.

Recent crises, including armed conflicts, natural disasters, and economic disruptions in various host countries, have further demonstrated the need for a more responsive and coordinated system for monitoring the condition of OFWs and facilitating immediate government intervention. The absence of a unified digital platform often results in fragmented records, delayed responses, and difficulties in coordinating assistance among government agencies and foreign service posts.

This measure establishes a comprehensive digital platform that will enable real-time monitoring of OFWs, streamline access to welfare services, facilitate emergency assistance and repatriation efforts, strengthen grievance mechanisms, and improve inter-agency coordination. It likewise provides safeguards to ensure compliance with data privacy and cybersecurity standards while generating valuable information that can guide policy formulation and program development for migrant workers.

¹ ¹BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (2025). *Personal Remittances Reach Record High in 2024*. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Accessed via <https://www.bsp.gov.ph/SitePages/MediaAndResearch/MediaDisp.aspx?ItemId=7426&ref=hackernoon.com>. Accessed on 23 June 2026.

The welfare of our Overseas Filipino Workers remains a fundamental responsibility of the State. As modern technology continues to transform public service delivery, government institutions must likewise adopt innovative systems that enhance protection, accessibility, and responsiveness for Filipinos working abroad. The establishment of a digitalized welfare and monitoring system shall not only strengthen the government's capacity to safeguard OFWs but also reaffirms the nation's commitment to honoring their sacrifices and protecting their rights wherever they may be.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Soriano', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON. JEFFREY SORIANO

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9953**

Introduced by **Representative JEFFREY SORIANO**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DIGITALIZED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFW)
WELFARE AND MONITORING SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 the “*Digitalized OFW Welfare and Monitoring System Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the rights and promote the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) as vital contributors to national development. Toward this end, the State shall establish a comprehensive, accessible, and secure digitalized system for the registration, monitoring, and provision of welfare services to OFWs, ensuring timely intervention, efficient service delivery, and enhanced protection against exploitation and abuse.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

a. Digitalized OFW Welfare and Monitoring System (DOWMS) refers to the integrated digital platform established under this Act for the registration, monitoring, and provision of welfare services to OFWs;

b. Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a country of which he/she is not a citizen or a permanent resident, or is not seeking permanent residence. This shall include documented and undocumented OFWs, seafarers, and those in irregular situations;

c. Personal Information refers to any information, whether recorded in material form or not, from which the identity of an individual is apparent or can be reasonably and directly ascertained;

d. Sensitive Personal Information refers to personal information classified as sensitive under Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “*Data Privacy Act of 2012*”; and

e. Welfare Services refer to programs, assistance, and interventions provided by the government to OFWs, including but not limited to legal assistance, medical assistance, financial aid, psychosocial support, repatriation and reintegration programs.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of the Digitalized OFW Welfare and Monitoring System.* – There is hereby established a Digitalized OFW Welfare and Monitoring System (DOWMS) under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). The DMW shall be the primary agency responsible for the development, implementation, operation, and maintenance of the DOWMS.

SEC. 5. *Registration.* – The registration of OFWs in the DOWMS shall be integrated with existing registration, documentation, and membership systems of the DMW and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to avoid duplication of records and requirements.

SEC. 6. *Functions of the DOWMS.* – The DOWMS shall have the following functions:

a. Serve as a comprehensive and centralized digital repository of all OFWs, including their personal information, employment details, contract information, travel history, and other relevant data, subject to data privacy regulations;

b. Enable OFWs to regularly update their status, location, and employment conditions, and to report any concerns, issues, or emergencies through a user-friendly interface;

c. Provide a dedicated module for OFWs to request immediate emergency assistance, which shall trigger real-time alerts to the DMW, Philippine Foreign Service Posts, and Philippine embassies and consulates for prompt action.

d. Serve as a portal for OFWs to access information on and apply for various government welfare services, including legal assistance, repatriation, medical aid, financial assistance, and psychosocial support;

e. Disseminate timely and relevant information, advisories, alerts, and government programs to OFWs through various digital channels;

f. Provide a streamlined mechanism for OFWs to file complaints and grievances related to their employment or welfare, and to track the status of their concerns;

g. Facilitate the enrollment and monitoring of OFWs in reintegration programs upon their return to the Philippines; and

h. Generate comprehensive reports and analytics on OFW demographics, employment trends, welfare cases, and other relevant data to inform policy formulation and program development.

SEC. 7. *Interoperability and Inter-Agency Coordination.* – The DOWMS shall be designed to be interoperable with existing and future digital systems of other government agencies involved in OFW welfare, including but not limited to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment, OWWA, National Bureau of Investigation, and the Philippine National Police. The DMW shall establish protocols for secure data sharing and coordination among these agencies to ensure a holistic approach to OFW welfare.

SEC. 8. *Data Privacy and Security.* – The DMW, in coordination with the National Privacy Commission, shall ensure the highest standards of data privacy and security in the development, implementation, and operation of the DOWMS. All personal and sensitive personal information collected, stored, and processed through the DOWMS shall be handled in strict compliance with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SEC. 9. *Access to Information.* – Access to information within the DOWMS shall be strictly limited to authorized personnel of the DMW and other relevant government agencies, on a need-to-know basis, and for legitimate purposes directly related to OFW welfare and protection. Unauthorized access, disclosure, or misuse of information shall be subject to penalties under existing laws.

SEC. 10. *Funding.* – The initial funding for the development, implementation, and operation of the DOWMS shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DMW. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DMW, in consultation with relevant government agencies, OFWs, and civil society organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,