Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1126

Introduced by: REP. JUAN FIDEL FELIPE F. NOGRALES,

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND
THE JOBS MARKET IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, parts of the Philippines were placed under enhanced community
quarantine (ECQ) on March 16, 2020 until May 31, 2020, due to the rise of COVID-
19 infections while other parts of the country are still in place-specific lockdowns as
COVID-19 cases still surge, while other countries also continue to be on lockdown,
affecting conditions of work and employment;

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2020, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
through its 40 Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) across the world reported
that more than 230,000 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are affected by the
pandemic and that a total of 89,436 OFWs were displaced from their jobs mostly on
a no-work, no pay status due to lockdowns and economic restriction of the host
countries;¹

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2020, DOLE reported that about 95,702 OFWs repatriated
by the government due to the coronavirus pandemic have been transported back to
their homes² and at least 200,000 affected OFWs refused to go home and as of July 4,
the agency’s overseas offices along with the Overseas Workers Welfare
Administration have recorded over 551,000 applications for assistance from land-
based and sea-based workers;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis will cost the Philippine economy P2.2 trillion in
losses in 2020 as firms lose profits while millions of workers lose their jobs and
income;³

WHEREAS, the GDP growth rate of the Philippines dropped by 16.5 percent in
the second quarter of 2020, the lowest recorded quarterly growth since 1981, leading
to the country’s economic recession;⁴

³ See https://www.bbc.com/zhczy/travel-55111350
⁴ See https://www.bbc.com/zhczy/travel-55111350
WHEREAS, public and private employment services (PES) will play a crucial role in preventing the labor market from seizing up during the crisis and in promoting a fast recovery once quarantine measures start to be lifted:

WHEREAS, it is imperative that benefits are paid out to employees without delay, providing information, and encouraging jobseekers to stay active even if there are fewer vacancies both in the public and private sectors:

WHEREAS, there is a need to cushion the economic impact of the pandemic by shifting labor demand across sectors and regions and the need to prepare to potentially reallocate many of jobs across occupations, sectors and regions:

WHEREAS, a good labor market information and support for skills development to quickly adapt to the new situation and there is a need for national and local government to work on a comprehensive inventory of available jobs in the market coupled with aggressive coordination with the private sector for the information accumulation and aggregation of available jobs:

WHEREAS, the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) is a non-fee charging multi-employment service facility or entity established or accredited pursuant to Republic Act No. 8759 or PESO Act of 1999 to carry out full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all, and for this purpose, to strengthen and expand the existing employment facilitation service machinery of the government particularly at the local levels:

WHEREAS, public and private employment services is much needed in this pandemic to be spearheaded by the national government agencies (NGAs) and partnered with local government units (LGUs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or community-based organizations (CBOs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs):

WHEREAS, as of July 30, 2018, around 264,000 authorized positions in the government have yet to be filled which can absorb some of those who lost jobs in the pandemic:

WHEREAS, there is a need for a whole-of-government and governance partners approach in responding to the impending jobs crisis brought about by the pandemic:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Labor and Employment conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the conditions of public and private employment services, the jobs market, and the preparation and policies needed to support jobs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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