

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 792

Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

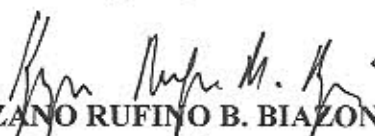
This bill seeks to establish an Overseas Filipino Workers Office in every province of the Philippines.

According to the 2015 Survey on Overseas Filipinos, there are around 2.4 Million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) all over the world. These modern day heroes remitted an estimated P180.3 Billion to the country. Among the regions, CALABARZON had the most OFWs estimated at around 170,000 workers followed by Central Luzon and the National Capital Region with around 150,000 and 10,000 workers respectively. It would be safe to assume that almost all, if not all cities and municipalities in the country, have at least one (1) OFW. Even assuming that not all cities and municipalities do not have at least a single OFW, this does not mean that not anyone among its labor force wants to be employed abroad.

While the country tries to find solutions to address the dearth of jobs that pay decent wages in the country, efforts must also be exerted to protect and promote the welfare and interests of OFWs or those planning to be OFWs. There is no better place to start than at the provinces. After all, aside from the families of OFWs who benefit from their remittances, these provinces also benefit as most of these remittances are either spent or invested where these OFWs and their families reside.

It is therefore but fitting that every provincial government should establish an OFW Office where all the concerns of OFWs or those planning to be OFWs, may be addressed.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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 “*Provincial Overseas Filipino Workers Office Act*”.

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the welfare of all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families. Towards this end, the state shall come up with programs and mechanisms that shall promote and protect the interests of OFWs and their families.

Sec. 3. *Creation of OFW Office in All Provinces.* – There is hereby established an OFW Office in all provinces in the country. It shall serve as a one-stop-shop to address concerns or problems of Overseas Filipino Workers and their families who are residing within their respective territorial jurisdictions.

All provincial governments, through these OFW Offices, in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and other relevant government agencies advocating the rights and welfare of OFWs, shall take a proactive stance in the dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas employment. Such OFW Offices herein established shall be linked to the database of all relevant government agencies particularly the POEA and the OWWA for its updated list of overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing.

Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government in consultation with the local government units, the DFA, POEA the OWWA and all other relevant government agencies, shall, within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations which may be inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,