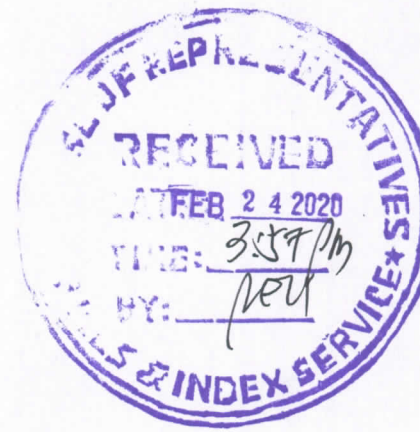


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 733



Introduced by MARINO Party-list Representatives
SANDRO L. GONZALEZ
and **MACNELL M. LUSOTAN**

RESOLUTION
URGING CONGRESS TO FORM A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UNDER
THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO FORMULATE A
LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF IMPROVING THE STATE
OF PHILIPPINE MARITIME SCHOOLS AND THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH
THE STCW AND OTHER CONVENTIONS

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a party to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers of 1978, as amended (STCW Convention), which establishes a set of internationally accepted standards on the training, assessment, certification, and watchkeeping for seafarers;

WHEREAS, the MARINA, in coordination with CHED, is mandated to evaluate and inspect all maritime higher education institutions to ensure that the maritime higher education programs being offered by said institutions comply with the minimum standards set under the STCW Convention;

WHEREAS, the STCW Convention allows member-states to audit the compliance of other parties to the convention, and the Philippines will undergo the eighth inspection of EMSA from 24 February to 13 March 2020 to assess the country's level of compliance in implementing the STCW Convention, with Singapore expressing the intention to conduct a similar audit this year, and the International Maritime Organization also scheduled to conduct its own audit next year on our compliance with various maritime conventions;

WHEREAS, failing the EMSA inspection and assessment may result in the withdrawal of recognition of our 80,000 strong Filipino seafarers' certificates by the European Union member countries and consequently the non-hiring of Filipino seafarers in European flag ships, with similar consequences for failure in other audits;

WHEREAS, the economic benefits that the seafarers continuously contribute to the country, particularly through their dollar remittances, comprise at least 20% of the total annual dollar remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), amounting to 5.572 billion dollars in 2016, 5.870 billion dollars in 2017 and 6.139 billion dollars in 2018, benefits which will be endangered if Filipino seafarers develop a reputation as inadequately prepared due to perceived deficiencies of its maritime education system;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, that Congress form a Technical Working Group in the Committee on Transportation which will convene regulatory agencies, maritime institutions, and other stakeholders to formulate a clear set of standards for compliance with the STCW Convention for all audits by other parties, and to provide budgetary assistance to regulatory agencies, if necessary, to ensure this compliance.

Adopted,



SANDRO L. GONZALEZ

Representative

MARINO Party-list



MACNELL M. LUSOTAN

Representative

MARINO Party-list