



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN
Lingayen
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SECRETARY

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at the regular session duly constituted of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Pangasinan, held on March 18, 2011 at Lingayen, Pangasinan, the following provincial ordinance was approved:

Authored by Vice Governor Jose Ferdinand Z. Calimlim, Jr., SP Members Ranjit R. Shahani and Von Mark R. Mendoza and co-authored by all Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 149-2011

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PANGASINAN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS' (OFW) DESK

EXPLANATORY NOTE

WHEREAS, more than eight million Overseas Filipino Workers can now be found in 193 countries even in the war-torn areas of Iraq, Israel and Lebanon. Among them, 3.6 million are migrant workers, 3.2 million are permanent residents and 1.3 million are undocumented. More than half of these OFWs are women. Most of the jobs available to OFWs are difficult, dirty and dangerous especially in the construction work, domestic service, nursing and caring institutions, entertainment industry and factories. They are often vulnerable to abuses, exploitation and violation of human rights as reported by international labor surveys and reports. More than 15 million families are affected by overseas work. They are forced to endure long period of separation, oftentimes putting them in vulnerable situations including broken homes and erosion of cultural values. These happen largely because of the lack of awareness about overseas work as well as lack of protection on the part of concerned government agencies;

WHEREAS, thousands of Pangasinenses travel to work abroad, some with uncertainties of what will they encounter, while others are haunted by said experiences and injustices like unpaid salaries, physical and psychological abuses, undue confinement, confiscation of passports and sexual abuses. The work that was expected by them is usually different from what they were assured by the recruiter. On the part of the government, there is a policy of deregulation on recruitment activities and the phasing out of their regulatory functions. The said policy, which states that the migration of workers becomes strictly a matter between the worker and his foreign employer, is likely to have inimical effects on