

## PM Platform for OFWs and Migrant Workers

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- Protect the rights and welfare of migrant workers in their host countries. The international guaranteed labor rights as enshrined in the ILO conventions including the right to organize, bargain and strike must be extended to all migrant workers.
- Forge bilateral agreements with host countries of OFW's to guarantee their basic labor rights and ensure implementation of labor standards. The state must also take the lead in pushing for enforceable multilateral treaties defending and advancing migrant rights. A government that actively promotes labor migration as a policy can do no else.
- End the deregulation of the labor export industry and government must strictly regulate the deployment of workers abroad. This will greatly reduce fraud, deception and abuse by private employment agencies and contractors at the homefront. Heavier penalties and fines must be levied against illegal recruiters.
- Amend the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act or RA 8042. Incorporate important protective provisions specifically for seafarers and women migrant workers.
- Reorganize the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and revise its program to ensure that the funds collected from OFW's are used to serve migrants and their families. Scrap the OWWA Omnibus Policies. Audit and transparency mechanisms must be installed to protect the OWWA Fund. OFW's and their families must be represented in the OWWA Board.
- Reorient the embassies and consulates of the Philippines in OFW host countries to primarily serve the concerns of migrant workers. The promotion of OFW rights and welfare rather than the promotion of tourism or investments must be their primary mission. To that end, the embassies must be reorganized with programs to assist migrants who are victims of abuse and to facilitate redress of their grievances.
- Expand the programs for OFW's and their families. Above and beyond programs and projects that currently exist, there must be provision for reintegration and retraining of OFW's, care for women survivors of violence abroad, support for families of migrant workers including women abandoned by their spouses working abroad, and coverage for OFW's social security, health insurance and housing.
- Amend the Overseas Absentee Voting Law so that it more effectively assures the right to vote of Filipinos abroad and ensures the sanctity of their ballot. Among these are a choice for either postal or personal registration and voting, continuing registration of overseas Filipinos, and an appropriate mechanism for seafarers to register and vote.
- Reverse the policy of labor export promotion and the state must enforce the Constitutional mandate for full employment in the country.
- Strengthen the local economy so that domestic industry and agriculture can generate sufficient decent jobs for all Filipinos.