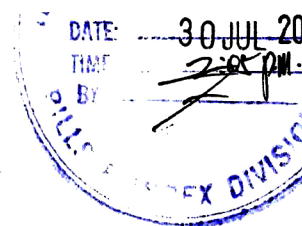


CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FOURTEENTH CONGRESS )  
Third Regular Session )



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Resolution No. 1298

Introduced by Reps. FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR. and JONATHAN A. DELA CRUZ

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS – OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING SECRETARIAT TO SUBMIT AN UPDATED REPORT ON THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERSEAS VOTING PROGRAM FOR PURPOSES OF THE 2010 ELECTIONS**

Whereas, R.A. 9189, otherwise known as The Overseas Voting Act of 2003 was enacted to rectify the decades-long denial of the millions of overseas Filipino workers' exercise of their fundamental right to vote;

Whereas, consequent to the enactment of R.A. 9189, in the 2004 and 2007 national elections, tens of thousands of Filipinos overseas were able to exercise their right to vote and elected candidates for President, Vice-President, Senators and Party-List Representative of their choice;

Whereas, the tens of thousands of overseas Filipinos able to vote in the 2004 and 2007 national elections notwithstanding, their number constitutes a miniscule fraction of the aggregate number of overseas Filipinos that, given opportunity and proper access, can and should exercise their right to participate in the 2010 elections;

Whereas, according to data from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the estimated number of Filipinos overseas was 8,083,815 in 2004 and 8,726,520 in 2007;

Whereas, of the estimated 8,083,815 Filipinos overseas in 2004 and 8,726,520 in 2007 only 359,296 and 504,124 respectively or 4.4% and 5.8% were able to register as voters;

Whereas, of the 359,296 Filipinos overseas registered in 2004 and 504,124 registered in 2007, only 233,137 and 81,732 respectively or 64.9% and 16% were able to vote;

Whereas, a comparison of the data for 2004 to that of 2007 shows a steep deterioration – a magnitude some concerned sectors consider as questionable – of overseas Filipinos' participation in national elections;

Whereas, for the forthcoming 2010 national elections, only 104,475 Filipinos overseas have registered as of June 17, 2009 or less than two months before the termination of registration on August 31, 2009;

Whereas, the 104,475 Filipinos overseas who have registered as of June 17, 2009 constitute only 1.2% of the last available data on the aggregate qualified overseas Filipino voters, the 8,726,520 in 2007;


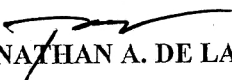
Whereas, the 104,475 Filipinos overseas who have registered as of June 17, 2009 constitute only 29% and 21% of registered overseas Filipino voters respectively in the 2004 and 2007 national elections;

Whereas, the aforementioned data clearly indicate a worrisome deterioration of overseas Filipinos' participation in the forthcoming 2010 national elections;

Whereas, complacency in probing the causes of the deterioration of overseas Filipinos' participation in national elections and crafting adequate measures to address the same is tantamount to denying the millions of overseas Filipinos' their fundamental right;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committees on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Workers Affairs to require the Commission on Elections and the Department of Foreign Affairs – Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat to submit an updated report on the state of the overseas voting program for purposes of the 2010 elections.

Adopted,

  
FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.  
  
JONATHAN A. DE LA CRUZ