

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11299, April 17, 2019]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE ATTACHE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995", AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 2, paragraph (b) of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(b) The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all. Towards this end, the State shall provide adequate and timely social, economic and legal services to Filipino migrant workers, especially for workers who are vulnerable to physical, emotional, and psychological stress or abuse."

SEC. 2. A new paragraph (e) is hereby inserted in Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, to read as follows:

"(e) *Department of Social Welfare and Development.* - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall deploy Social Welfare Attaches in countries with large concentration of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), as determined in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The Social Welfare Attache shall possess the minimum qualifications set by the Civil Service Commission and the preferred qualifications prescribed by the DSWD.

"The Social Welfare Attache shall perform the following functions and duties at the overseas post:

"(e.1) Manage cases of OFWs and other overseas Filipinos in distress needing psychosocial services, such as victims of trafficking or illegal recruitment, rape or sexual abuse, maltreatment and other forms of physical or mental abuse, and cases of abandoned or neglected children;

"(e.2) Undertake surveys and prepare official social welfare situationers on the OFWs in the area of assignment;

"(e.3) Establish a network with overseas-based social welfare agencies and/or individuals and groups which may be mobilized to assist in the provisions of appropriate social services;