

Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines



**AMCHAM
PHILIPPINES**

AMERICAN

American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Phils.), Inc.
Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.
Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.

May 25, 2015

Business Groups Object to Overtime Provisions in the Proposed Immigration Act

The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) has recommended to the House and Senate committees on Justice that the proposed Immigration Act under consideration should not include a provision to authorize the charging of overtime fees against airline companies and shippers.



ANZCHAM

AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND

Part of the modernization of immigration services is the ability of government to match the 24/7 operations of international airlines, our major partner in tourism development. The practice of charging overtime fees, meals, and transportation allowances to international airlines, that dates back to CA 613 (1940) (Sec. 7-A), should now be removed and replaced with one where services provided by Bureau of Immigration (BI) personnel, as employees of the government, are duly compensated by the State from its budget. This will accord with international practice and the current policy of the Aquino Administration.



CANADIAN

The JFC requested the House and Senate Justice committees to consider its proposal to support GPH goals to generate jobs and income across export-oriented sectors, especially tourism, which heavily depend on immigration services, as follows:

1. to delete the section that authorizes the BI Commissioner to assign immigration employees *"to do overtime work or services to be prescribed at rates fixed by the Commissioner of Immigration when the service rendered is to be paid for by the airline, shipping companies or other persons served."*
2. to authorize the BI to allocate a percentage share from its income generated to pay for 24/7 operations and to include any overtime payments in its annual budget.



EUROPEAN



JAPANESE

The JFC supports government efforts to modernize immigration services through the proposed Philippine Immigration Act and other ongoing reforms. The objective of the bill is to make immigration services more enabling to promote tourism and commerce. We believe these efforts will help make the Philippine tourism, long stay, and retirement industries more competitive with the rest of our ASEAN neighbors and help the country grow twice as fast as recommended in *Arangkada Philippines 2010*.



KOREAN

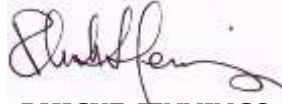
As international traffic continues to grow, especially with implementation of the liberal air access policy at secondary gateways, any shortage of personnel relative to the growth of passenger traffic should be addressed with an increase in the workforce at the expense of the national government.



PAMURI

The JFC is a coalition of the American, Australian- New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese, Korean chambers and PAMURI. We represent over 3,000 member companies engaged in over \$230 billion worth of trade and some \$30 billion worth of investments in the Philippines. The JFC supports and promotes open international trade, increased foreign investment, and improved conditions for business to benefit both the Philippines and the countries the JFC members represent.

Regards,



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