

The following documents consider issues related to migration and work. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document 1: adapted from *Migration is an essential of human history* written by Carmen N Pedrosa in 2019. The article was published in 'The Philippine Star'. The author is a Filipino journalist.

Man has been migrating since he existed. Why? Human beings migrate to places where there are better economic opportunities or to escape the unhappy politics of their countries. Here are some figures. "Migration to the Americas took place 20,000 to 15,000 years ago. By 2,000 years ago, humans had established settlements in most of the Pacific Islands."

Through the years Filipino migration grew from thousands to millions. In the 1970s, I was in the UK and worked closely with the Filipino community. Some migrants entered the UK legally, others didn't. So, a Filipino word was coined, "tago ng tago" (always hiding). In 1979, Margaret Thatcher was elected Prime Minister, on a platform of stopping migration. The Filipino community were chosen as a target because they had a weak community and the Filipino government was unwilling to take up their cause.

My late husband and I were involved in the Filipino campaign for change. When the UK migration rules discriminated against women, the campaign went to the International Commission of Human Rights. Men could bring in their families but women could not. Today things have changed and no one is complaining about Filipino migrant workers, most of whom are women. As nurses, they give a much needed service in UK hospitals.

Like Margaret Thatcher, US President Donald Trump ignores history, thinking migration can be stopped. In August 2016, migration was a popular issue among the US electorate. It is a simple issue about "why they should be burdened by new entrants to their communities." So Trump introduced more immigration rules, including a promise to erect a border wall to stop migrants. Reports say he has not built an inch of the wall. Too many oppose it. The ludicrous border wall is unlikely to be built. Trump may have been able to implement some new rules, but I doubt these will lessen migration to the US or other richer countries.

Filipinos are part of Trump's targeted migrants. The Trump government referred to "concerns over human trafficking and overstaying raised by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS)". In 2017, DHS estimated that "nearly 40 percent of visa holders from the Philippines overstayed their period of authorized stay".

A notice was published by the DHS in the Federal Register: "DHS and Department of State (DOS) also believe that these overstay and human trafficking concerns are severe enough to warrant removal from the visa program as well". Filipinos will not be issued US work visas until January next year. DHS pointed out "The Philippines' continued inclusion creates the potential for abuse, fraud and other harm to the integrity of visa programs."

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in the Philippines said it is ready to work with the US in addressing the issues. The DFA reminded Filipinos abroad, particularly those in the US, to follow immigration rules and avoid staying beyond what is allowed by their visas. I think that is difficult to impose. Hiding is the tago-ng-tago way Filipinos and other nationalities will deal with visa restrictions.

Migration is mutually beneficial, desirable and necessary to sustain economic growth and end recession. As has been demonstrated throughout history, migration allows the transfer of manpower and skills and provides knowledge and innovation needed for global growth. Migration is essential.

Document 2: adapted from *How labor migration destroys the Filipino family* – written by Josephus B Jimenez in 2019. The article was published in 'The Philippine Star'. The author is a lawyer and Executive Director of the National Maritime Polytechnic, a government-owned maritime training center for Filipinos.

Which is more important, the billions our economy gets each year or the preservation of Filipino families as the foundation of the nation? From the early seventies we have been sending construction workers, engineers, architects, and other professionals to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. Much earlier we sent workers like nurses, doctors, and other professionals to Hawaii, California, and other US states. Then later, we sent workers to Europe.

The current demands for a new government Department of OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) highlight the impact of outward labor migration on the Filipino family. Millions go abroad to help their families, but when they come home after years of working, they no longer have families.

The Philippine Senate and House of Representatives are about to formulate the final draft of the migrant workers' OFW bill. I have been asked by many communities of OFWs from the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, to help with this task. As I was Philippine's Labor attaché to Malaysia, Kuwait, and Taiwan for nine years, the OFWs are convinced I have enough actual experiences, empirical data, and anecdotal evidence, to support my input to the legislation. Also, as a long-time professor of Law and author of Labor Law books, the OFWs believe I am qualified to testify in public hearings in aid of lawmaking.

In accepting their call for help, I included a warning. Before everything, it is my core conviction that our country should go slow on outward labor migration. The reason for this hesitation is that migration has, for many decades, been destroying the family as the foundation of our society and nation.

Each year, about 12 million Filipinos in about 200 countries, send USD 32 billion to their families through banks and other financial institutions. Much more than that is also sent through informal "padala" (shipments) or by personal delivery, when OFWs come home for vacation or for good. But these financial successes are achieved at a very high social cost. This includes broken homes, shattered marriages, and bigamy. Children from these families take drugs, suffer teenage pregnancy, or commit crimes. Homes and families have become dysfunctional.

Over and above the destruction of the family is also the loss of human dignity. Overseas Filipino Workers, especially domestic helpers, are obliged to perform dirty, difficult, and dangerous tasks that are degrading. This sad situation often ends in disease, disability, death, as well as disillusionment, debt, and despair. The domestic helpers are treated like slaves, compelled to work 15 to 20 hours a day, emotionally abused and physically and psychologically maltreated. Many of them are falsely accused of crimes and jailed.

Labor migration may be good for the economy but causes social problems that destroy the Filipino family. Gradually, it is also destroying the whole nation in the ultimate end. And so, this demand to create a new Department of Overseas Filipino Workers should be carefully and prudently handled. First and foremost, it should uphold what matters most, the family and human dignity.

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