

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS TELL TARGET :  
KICK OUT THE FILIPINO DOMESTICS !**

As pressure mounts on the Government of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to try to find a method to ameliorate the present ticklish situation in respect of the 6.80-percent unemployment rate, there is, quietly but most determinedly, a flood of Philippine nationals, applying to enter the territory.

Mr Vicente Cave, Assistant Labour Attaché of the Philippine Consulate General in the HKSAR, told this to TARGET, today.

According to Mr Cave, there were, as at August 31, 2001, about 155,000 Philippine nationals in the HKSAR – and their numbers are growing, steadily.

(The Philippine Consulate General does not have updated statistics with regard to Philippine nationals in the HKSAR)

About 90 percent of the Philippine population of the HKSAR is female, with most of them, being domestic helpers.

At least, that was their status when their feet, first touched HKSAR soil.

Mr Cave said: *'We have noted, in the past few months, that there is an increase in the number of contracts (for employment in the HKSAR), being processed (at the Consulate), notarised and authenticated by us.'*

Quite a number of Legislative Councillors, contacted by TARGET, are of the opinion that something *'must be done'* about, what they perceive as being the *'problem of the Filipinos in Hongkong'*.

That the 200,000-odd Philippine nationals (the unofficial estimate of the HKSAR Government), presently living in the HKSAR, are taking jobs away from Chinese residents is not in question, because the only consideration, today, is what to do about the situation.

For many Chinese households, Philippine nationals have been serving their masters/mistresses in the capacity of cleaners and/or cooks for more than a decade so that it is unlikely that the Government of the HKSAR could, successfully, extricate itself from such a situation without a bit of a fracas from the Government of the Philippines and the households, themselves.

According to a number of Legislative Councillors, with whom TARGET has spoken – TARGET has agreed not to quote the names of certain Legislative Councillors – the only way that a large proportion of the present Philippine population could be *'evacuated'* from the territory is not to renew contracts of employment, those that have been terminated, for whatever reason, within the first few years of their signing.

According to one Legislative Councillor, who asked not to be named: *'We are swamped with this (meaning 'these') people, many of which (whom) have not right to here. The way it is is that they come here on one contract, break it (the contract) within 6 months, and get another employer with more money. Or they stay here, illegally.'*

*'This people are taking the rice out of the mouths of the Chinese domestic helpers which (sic) could, easily, take over these people's jobs and, which is even more important, the Chinese speak Chinese, cook Chinese, and can be part of the community because they are Chinese.*

*'The Filipinas and Filipinos (females and males, respectively) don't want to be part of this Hongkong society and camp out every weekend and holiday in public place, dirtying up ... [CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE](#)*

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