




SENATE
P. S. R. No. **363**

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RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPER MONITORING IN THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE EMERGENCY REPATRIATION FUND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) TO ENSURE PROMPT RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 mandates: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 3 further provides: "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";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8042, also known as the Migrant Workers Act, Section 15, provides:

"The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in coordination with appropriate international agencies, shall undertake the repatriation of workers in cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events without prejudice to reimbursement by the responsible principal or agency; however, in cases where the principal or recruitment agency cannot be identified, all costs attendant to repatriation shall be borne by the OWWA;

For these purposes, there is hereby created and established an emergency repatriation fund under the administration control and supervision of the OWWA, initially to consist of one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00), inclusive of outstanding balances";

WHEREAS, according to Migrante International chairperson Garry Martinez, there have been reports that some Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Egypt are not in possession of their passports;

WHEREAS, the OFWs are allegedly worried because they have surrendered their passports to their employers upon arrival;

WHEREAS, Filipino nurses and workers employed by the Dar Al Fouad Hospital in Giza have already packed their bags and are waiting evacuation but their passports are still being withheld by the hospital;

WHEREAS, the OFWs have been trying to contact the DFA Hotline but it has been unreachable; thus, the employees are left with no option;

WHEREAS, apart from the P25 million allotted by the DFA for the emergency evacuation of OFWs in Egypt, the Migrants Workers' Act also directs the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to allocate P100 million as emergency repatriation funds;

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need for the release of the emergency repatriation fund to assist not only the OFWs in Egypt but also other Filipino nationals who are in need of repatriation;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proper monitoring in the disbursement of the emergency repatriation fund under the supervision of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to ensure prompt response to the needs of the Overseas Filipino Workers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/dpm