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Introduced by Honorable Senator JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS' IN TAIWAN TO ADDRESS THE UNJUST AND UNFAIR EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS THROUGH NON-ADHERENCE TO CONTRACTS AND TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED INABILITY OF THE MANILA ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE (MECO) TO MAKE REPRESENTATION IN BEHALF OF THE OFWS

WHEREAS, the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are termed as the "Bagong Bayani" of the country in view of their sacrifices and the resultant economic upliftment due to their remittances;

WHEREAS, the global economic crisis indeed, has caused the troubles that most countries, including Taiwan, employing OFWs to lay off or terminate their employment but should not be their reason to resort to oppression and injustice in their treatment of Filipino workers in their midst;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government has vowed to defend their rights and to extend assistance to the plight of these unfortunate OFWs and for the government to take the necessary steps to alleviate their situation and economic circumstance in general;

WHEREAS, the reality that our OFWs now face in Taiwan particularly under the employ of the Walton Advanced Engineering Incorporated, is contrary to the spirit and letter of the contract entered into with the Republic of China for the protection of their welfare, in view of the inaction and inability to defend the OFWs by the Manila Economic and Cultural Office stationed in Taiwan to act on the numerous complaints of OFWs;

WHEREAS, in a Petition of OFWs for a Better Package for Displaced/Terminated in Taiwan given to the Senate Committee on Labor and Employment it stated that "the play of words (i.e. "Bagong Bayani" or new heroes of the land) we hear from our government has literally made us feel good and forget our worries and anxieties, but unfortunately, an-honest-to-goodness intervention on our plight is yet forthcoming.";

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, in connection with the plight of the Overseas Filipino Workers' in Taiwan to address the unjust and unfair employment conditions through non-adherence to contracts and to investigate the alleged inability of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) to make representation in behalf of the OFWs.

Adopted,

JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

Senator