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SENATE

P.S. RESOLUTION NO. 407 RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by:

Senators Francis N. Pangilinan

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***A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE  
THAT THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND WORSENING VIOLENCE  
IN LIBYA WHICH HAS AFFECTED INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY BY PUTTING THE LIVES OF ITS CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS,  
INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AT RISK  
SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO AN END THROUGH  
A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER***

**WHEREAS**, Libya is one of the Arab countries recently besieged by revolution. Last January 2011, Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali stepped down from power because of the pressure from its citizenry. This was followed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who resigned after thirty (30) years due to similar protests by its constituents. However, Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi still vehemently refuses to give up his hold on Libya for forty two (42) years now;

**WHEREAS**, the latest upheaval in Libya has affected the peace and order not only in their jurisdiction, but as well as countries worldwide. The political instability in Libya has affected the peace and economic growth of its neighboring countries;

**WHEREAS**, there is an estimated twenty six thousand (26,000) overseas Filipino workers who are presently caught in the middle of the political havoc in Libya, where millions of protesters are calling for the ouster of Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi. The latest news from Libya confirms that President Gadhafi is arming civilian refugees to assist him in quelling the pro-democracy rallies which resulted to the worsening violence in Libya. The political instability and violence in Libya posed a very grave threat to the its citizens and residents, including overseas Filipino workers who are still in the jurisdiction of the dictator;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is a member of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Considering that most of the overseas Filipino workers in Libya are skilled workers and professionals who are employed by multinational companies, the Philippine government is now closely coordinating with IOM in order to process the repatriation of the overseas Filipino workers trapped in Libya;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) estimated that thirteen thousand (13,000) overseas Filipino workers in Libya will be repatriated at their

employers' expense. On the other hand, the remaining overseas Filipino workers in Libya will be repatriated through the Assistance to Nationals (ATN) of the Philippine government with the help of the IOM;

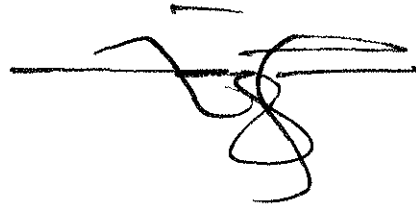
**WHEREAS**, according to the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, there are ongoing arrangements for the overseas Filipino workers in Libya to travel via chartered ferries and commercial flights. The overseas Filipino workers would be brought from Tripoli to Malta, and those based in Benghazi, to Crete;

**WHEREAS**, Article XIII, Section 3 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall afford the full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities to all. Accordingly, the paramount consideration in the relocation and repatriation of the overseas Filipino workers in Libya is their continued safety and welfare until they reach the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the continuing violence in Libya has affected the world market and the economy of countries worldwide. Serious efforts and action plans should be made to end the violence in Libya as it already endangers international peace and security;

**RESOLVED**, to express, as it hereby expresses, the sense of the Senate the political instability and worsening violence in Libya which has affected international peace and security by putting the lives of its citizens and residents, including thousands of overseas Filipino workers in Libya at risk should be brought to an end through a peaceful transition of power.

**ADOPTED,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line with several loops and flourishes extending upwards and downwards.