

1 WHEREAS, state auditors revealed that for assistance for shipment of human remains,
2 financial assistance was not readily available due to the funding requirements thus, it took some
3 time to finally transport the remains back to the Philippines;

4 WHEREAS, the COA cited the case of the late Reynaldo Masillones, wherein the Post
5 was informed of his death on 15 December 2012 but the remains were finally shipped to the
6 Philippines only last 22 March 2013;

7 WHEREAS, this deplorable situation does not mirror the urgency of the need for
8 financial assistance and negates the humanitarian aspect of the purpose of the ATN fund;

9 WHEREAS, in the case of Masillones, the COA claimed that Philippine Embassy was
10 authorized to disburse ATN Funds totaling \$32,859.13 or ₱1,379,874.21, of which only
11 \$12,426.07 was utilized;

12 WHEREAS, ATN disbursements totaling \$6,642.39 or 53 percent of total expenditures
13 were on reimbursement basis;


14 WHEREAS, due to the urgent need for the disbursement of the ATN funds, it has
15 become the practice that the ATN officers usually advance the payment of these expenses since
16 there was not enough time to wait for the approval of the request for authority from the DFA
17 HO;

18 WHEREAS, there is a need to improve the system of disbursing the ATN funds so that
19 the Philippine embassies and consulates can respond to the emergency needs of our overseas
20 Filipino workers;

21 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the DFA Home Office should provide for a standby
22 ATN Fund of at least \$5,000 to enable the ATN officers to immediately respond to urgent cases;

23 WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper
24 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to provide for a
25 standby fund for the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) Assistance to Nationals Section to
26 enable them to immediately respond to urgent concerns of Overseas Filipino Workers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/dpmMay2015