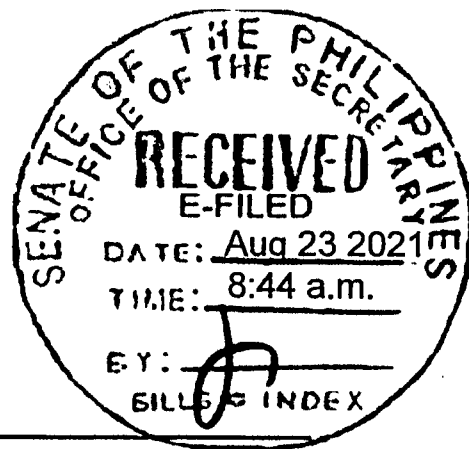


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 856



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL FILIPINOS IN
AFGHANISTAN AND EXPEDITE THEIR REPATRIATION

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution provides that the "State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare." Article XIII, Section 3 of the Constitution also mandates the State to "afford full protection to labor, local and overseas";

WHEREAS, over the past few days, the Taliban has taken over 26 of Afghanistan's 34 provincial capitals, now controlling an estimated 65% of the country's territory. At least 244,000 Afghans have been internally displaced since the beginning of May this year, when the Taliban began multiple offensives against the central government;¹

WHEREAS, on 15 August 2021, the Taliban took Kabul as the central government collapsed and President Ashraf Ghani fled out of the country;²

WHEREAS, the day before, U.S. President Joe Biden announced that he would be sending more troops to Kabul to facilitate the "orderly and safe drawdown" of U.S. personnel, allied forces, and Afghan civilians who helped with the war effort;³

WHEREAS, the Philippine Embassy in Pakistan estimates that there are some 200 remaining Filipinos in Afghanistan,⁴ with most working as hotel managers, professors, accountants, company managers, and engineers.⁵ According to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), there are currently some 75 Filipinos already awaiting repatriation;⁶

¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/15/taliban-continues-advances-captures-key-city-of-jalalabad>

² <https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-taliban-kabul-bagram-e1ed33fe0c665ee67ba132c51b8e32a5>

³ <https://www.yahoo.com/gma/thousands-troops-heading-afghanistan-help-193400065.html>

⁴ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/08/15/2120047/philippines-repatriate-filipinos-afghanistan>

⁵ <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/08/15/2120000/can-ofws-escape-wrath-talibans>

⁶ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/08/15/2120047/philippines-repatriate-filipinos-afghanistan>;
<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/08/15/2120000/can-ofws-escape-wrath-talibans>

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8042, or the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995," as amended, provides for the repatriation of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and other overseas Filipinos in cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events. It mandates the DFA and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and its attached agency, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), to work together to ensure the protection of migrant workers and other Filipinos abroad, including their repatriation in emergency situations;

WHEREAS, R.A. 8042, as amended, also provides that the protection and the promotion of the welfare of Filipino migrant workers, in particular, and the protection of the dignity and fundamental rights and freedoms of the Filipino citizen abroad, in general, shall be the highest priority concerns of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Philippine Foreign Service Posts;

WHEREAS, as the humanitarian, political, and security crisis in Afghanistan continues to worsen and with the collapse of the central government, the need to immediately repatriate the remaining Filipinos in Afghanistan becomes even more urgent as each day passes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Labor and Employment to account for all Filipinos in Afghanistan and expedite their repatriation.

Adopted,


FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO