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SENATE

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, AND OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TO EXERCISE UTMOST TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE DISBURSEMENT/UTILIZATION OF THE PHP 250-MILLION FILIPINO EXPATRIATE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FUND, TO SHIELD IT FROM MISUSE, ABUSE AND CORRUPTION AND ENGENDER PUBLIC TRUST, IN THE NAME OF THE ROUGHLY 9 MILLION OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

*Whereas*, the government has earmarked P250 million for the Filipino Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund (FELSF), one of the safety nets for Overseas Filipino Workers displaced in the current global economic crisis by virtue of Administrative Order 248 signed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in December 2008;

*Whereas*, FELSF is being administered by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and is supported by government lending institutions like the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP);

*Whereas*, OWWA collects US\$25 per OFW as membership fee/contribution to the said fund;

*Whereas*, the rightful owners and stakeholders of the FELSF are the roughly nine (9) million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);

*Whereas*, the DOLE estimated that some 590,000 OFWs may be vulnerable to repercussions of the global recession;

*Whereas*, expatriate Filipino workers who lost their jobs can avail of loans through said fund either to start up a business, continue education/learning of new skills or job assistance in newer overseas labor markets;

*Whereas*, it is incumbent upon us to promote the interests of our hardworking OFWs by making sure that the funds will be not be utilized for other purposes other than what is intended; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Labor and Employment, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to exercise utmost transparency and accountability in the disbursement/utilization of the Php 250-million Filipino Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund, to shield it from misuse, abuse and corruption and engender public trust, in the name of the roughly 9 million Overseas Filipino Workers.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator