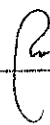




'11 MAR -3 P3:40

SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 412

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION AND THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS THE OTHER CONCERNED EXECUTIVE AGENCIES TO DEVISE A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF OUR REPATRIATED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS DUE TO THE SERIES OF UNREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA PROVIDING THEM WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF FINANCIAL AID, LIVELIHOOD AND TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING, PREFERENCE IN REDEPLOYMENT, FREE HOSPITALIZATION AND PHILHEALTH MEMBERSHIP, EDUCATIONAL HELP AND OTHER BENEFITS

WHEREAS, Section 18 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that:

“The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.”;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Article XIII of the same declares that:

“The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.”;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8042 otherwise known as the Migrant Workers Act makes it the policy of the State to ***“recognize(s) that the ultimate protection to all migrant workers is the possession of skills. Pursuant to this and as soon as practicable, the government shall deploy and/or allow the deployment only to skilled Filipino workers.”;***

WHEREAS, Filipinos overseas account for around eleven percent (11%) of our population with a significant number of them residing in the middle east and north Africa;

WHEREAS, the recent turmoil and unrest in the region has placed the livelihood and safety of our overseas Filipinos at risk, in Libya alone, there are an

estimated number of 30,000 Filipinos¹ who are affected by the conflict² and are now in the process of repatriation to the country;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment announced that there are 14,097 Filipinos still struggling and trapped in Libya and are waiting to be evacuated;³

WHEREAS, recent endeavors of the Department of Foreign Affairs to bring to safety hundreds of Filipinos in civil war stricken Libya although fruitful is now being mired with criticisms for its slow response on the situation⁴;

WHEREAS, efforts made by employers are worthy of commendation such as the emergency repatriation made by the French company, VINCI CONSTRUCTION GRAND PROJECTS who has safely airlifted its 97 Filipino workers out of harms way in Libya;

WHEREAS, with a significant number of Filipinos who will be repatriated and rendered without employment, it now becomes necessary for the government to act and lay down measures to ensure that these Filipinos are given adequate economic assistance so that they may be able to start again either here in the Philippines or abroad;

WHEREAS, our professional and skilled workers must be provided with the necessary implements for their trade and professions such as re-training, re-skilling and preferences in deployment so that they may be able to continue to provide for their Families and stand as a testament to the resiliency of the Filipino spirit;

WHEREAS, some of these repatriated workers have families with them and they must be assisted in relocation, housing and education of their children as well as healthcare and other assistance necessary for an efficient way of returning their family life to normalcy;

WHEREAS, armed conflict sometimes has a psychological impact on a person, so much so that some often show symptoms of war shock and other psychological trauma, as such, free counseling and other similar services must be made available to our repatriated overseas workers so that they may be aided in coping up with the experiences that they suffered while they were in the conflict zones;

WHEREAS, in as much as we hail our overseas Filipinos as the heroes, we must act to honor them with an unwavering support by providing them the services to facilitate their return to the country and to aid them as they start again with their life with their families.

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to urge the Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration as well as the other concerned executive agencies to devise a comprehensive strategy to address the concerns of our repatriated overseas Filipino workers due to the series of unrest in the middle east and north africa

¹ As cited in <http://politics.inquirer.net/politics/view/20110225-322113/Aquino-refutes-criticisms-over-Libyan-evacuation> March 3, 2011 3:00 PM


² Live Blog - Libya | Al Jazeera Blogs". [Blogs.aljazeera.net](http://blogs.aljazeera.net). 2011-02-17. Retrieved 2011-02-23.

³ As cited in <http://ofwnow.com/local-news/about-14000-ofws-still-trapped-in-libya/9617> March 3, 2011 2:00 PM

⁴ As cited in <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20110228-322708/Smile-diplomacy-helps-Filipinos-get-out-of-Libya> March 3, 2011 2:00PM

providing them with economic assistance in the form of financial aid, livelihood and technical skills training, preference in redeployment, free hospitalization and Philhealth membership, educational aid and other benefits

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR