



SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 103

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON STRANDED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA CONSIDERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

1 WHEREAS, economic recession in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) due to
2 the region's energy crisis caused by volatile oil prices impelled industrial firms to
3 retrench significant portions of their workforce;

4 WHEREAS, at least 11,000 overseas Filipino workers (OWFs) are stranded in
5 KSA after being forced to work without pay for several months and getting laid off
6 without receiving benefits;

7 WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of
8 Foreign Affairs initiated an inter-agency response mission, along with the Department of
9 Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Technical Education and
10 Skills Authority, and the Public Attorney's Office, to oversee and assist in the
11 implementation of the Relief Assistance Program that provides food, medicines, cash
12 and legal assistance to OFWs stranded in their camps and shelters;

13 WHEREAS, the government has also pursued forced repatriation after King
14 Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud pledged to shoulder the airfare of retrenched OFWs who
15 wish to return to the Philippines, and to waive immigration penalties due to their expired
16 working visas;

17 WHEREAS, based on the latest data from the Overseas Workers Welfare
18 Administration, 3,858 affected OFWs, including those still at jobsites and already
19 repatriated, have received financial assistance of P20,000 each, while 3,297 families in
20 the Philippines of stranded OFWs were granted P6,000 per family, totaling to
21 approximately P97-million cash assistance to the 7,155 OFW beneficiaries of the Relief
22 Assistance Program;

23 WHEREAS, while the DOLE has been prompt in taking action and exerting all
24 efforts to provide relief to our OFWs, the huge number of migrant workers still stranded
25 and in dire condition still poses a big challenge for the government;

