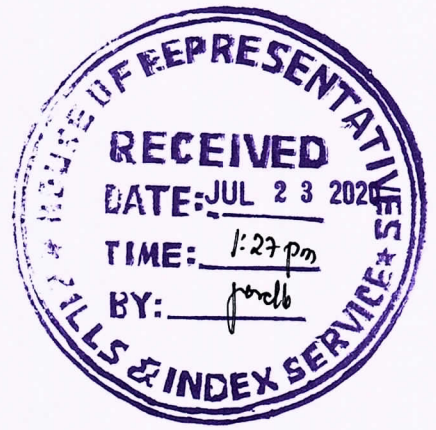




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1064

Introduced by Representatives Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Paolo Z. Duterte, Maria Laarni L. Cayetano, Luis Raymund “LRay” Villafuerte, Jr., Neptali M. Gonzales II, Dan S. Fernandez, Loren B. Legarda, Abraham N. Tolentino, Jose Antonio “Kuya” R. Sy-Alvarado, Eric G. Yap, Raneo E. Abu, Ann K. Hofer, Divina Grace C. Yu, Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso, and Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr.

RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 122ND FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, AND COMMENDING ITS MEN AND WOMEN FOR THEIR SELFLESS AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY AND THEIR FELLOW FILIPINOS DURING THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, during this extraordinarily challenging time of a pandemic, the men and women of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) have exhibited remarkable dedication in pursuit of the three pillars of our country’s foreign policy—promoting national security, enhancing economic diplomacy, and protecting the rights and welfare of Filipino overseas. These pillars have continued to define the course of our foreign relations and have been the guideposts for the men and women of the DFA especially during these unprecedented times;

WHEREAS, the third pillar—that of protecting the rights and welfare of Overseas Filipinos—has remained to be strong and has been translated into real action at a time it is most needed;

WHEREAS, as one of the most professional and dedicated workforces in the government, many officers of the DFA have been braving great danger everyday, and many more others who assisted the overall effort from the sidelines, Monday to Sunday, in relentless pursuit of our government’s commitment to care for our people wherever they may be and will do all it can to keep them from harm;

WHEREAS, in an effort to stem the transmission of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), more than 100 countries have been implementing lockdown or stay-at-home measures, and restricting the movement of more than a third of the world’s population and the operation of businesses;

WHEREAS, the restrictions resulted in the loss of jobs, including those of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Based on estimates of the Department of Labor and Employment, (DOLE), about 345,000 OFWs have been displaced by the by pandemic;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo R. Duterte has always committed to make the protection and promotion of the welfare and well-being of OFWs as one of his administration’s top priorities;

WHEREAS, during this unprecedented time of massive job displacement simultaneously happening in several parts of the world, the DFA have played a vital role in ensuring that the government reaches our Overseas Filipinos, both documented and undocumented, and they are given immediate and sufficient assistance;

WHEREAS, the men and women of the DFA have shown bravery and courage, put their own lives at risk, and gone above and beyond their call of duty to reach Filipinos, even in distant and dangerous

parts of the world. They have been reaching far beyond their grasp and has demanded from themselves only the best despite limited resources;

WHEREAS, as early as February 2020, Mark Anthony Geguera and Sanny Darren Bejarin of the Philippine Consulate General in Shanghai put their lives on the line by entering Wuhan City, said to be the ground zero of the COVID-19 outbreak, to personally visit neighborhoods with identified Filipino residents, hand out grocery items and basic necessities to them, and prepare for their repatriation to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on 09 February 2020, a 10-member team from the Philippines, with representatives from the DFA Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (DFA-OUMWA), personally flew to Wuhan City to bring thirty (30) Filipinos back to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on 26 February 2020, the DFA was able to bring home a total of 445 Filipinos aboard the MV Diamond Princess cruise ship after being quarantined onboard the ship since 05 February 2020. Aside from arranging the repatriation itself, the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo also provided food, medicine, masks, and other supplies for the Filipinos who remained onboard the ship;

WHEREAS, through a joint effort of the Philippine Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Philippine Honorary Consulate in Malé, Maldives, the Filipino community in Maldives, and the DFA-OUMWA, 336 Filipinos from Maldives were successfully repatriated on 25 April 2020;

WHEREAS, the DFA has worked tirelessly to bring distressed Overseas Filipinos from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Italy, Malaysia, Barbados, Thailand, Qatar, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, back to the country;

WHEREAS, a total of ninety-six thousand eight hundred seventy-four (96,874) overseas Filipinos have already been repatriated since the government began its COVID-19 repatriation efforts in February 2020, with a scheduled fifty thousand five hundred seventy-seven (50,577) more to be repatriated by the end of July 2020;

WHEREAS, the countless services the unnamed men and women have done for overseas Filipinos in DFA's embassies, consulates, satellite offices, regional offices, in government-run shelters, though often unpublicized and unrecognized, have become acts of heroism of serving the country, especially in the most perilous times;

WHEREAS, thousands of repatriated Filipinos and their families owe a huge debt of gratitude to the men and women of the DFA who have never wavered in their commitment to exert every possible effort to help all distressed Overseas Filipinos;

WHEREAS, DFA personnel, together with their families and loved ones, have made important and significant sacrifices for the country, and prove that is no greater calling than to serve their fellow men;

WHEREAS, the men and women of the DFA personify the virtues of patriotism, service, sacrifice, and duty. The very act of leaving their lives here to serve the country and fellow Filipinos abroad is one that takes great strength and bravery;

WHEREAS, it is both appropriate and just for the Philippines as a whole to recognize the selfless dedication and bravery of the men and women of the DFA, especially for extending assistance to distressed Overseas Filipinos during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to honor the members of the Foreign Service who, for more than a century, have given their lives in the loyal pursuit of their duties and responsibilities representing the interests of the Philippines and of its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives congratulates the Department of Foreign Affairs on the celebration of its 122nd founding anniversary, and commending the men and women of the DFA for their selfless and distinguished service to the country and their fellow Filipinos during this time of pandemic.

Adopted.


ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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NEPTALI M. GONZALES II

DAN S. HERNANDEZ

LOREN B. LEGARDA

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO

JOSE ANTONIO "KUYA" R. SY-ALVARADO

ERIC G. YAP

RAMEO E. ABU

ANN K. HOFER

DIVINA GRACE C. YU

SAMANTHA LOUISE VARGAS ALFONSO

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