Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

Began and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-second day of July, two thousand nineteen.

RESOLUTION NO. 43

RESOLUTION HONORING THE HEROISM, COURAGE AND GREAT COMPASSION OF THE TEN (10)-MEMBER PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TEAM THAT REPATRIATED THE DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN WUHAN CITY, EPICENTER OF THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19

WHEREAS, as of 12 February 2020, it has been reported that more than forty-four thousand (44,000) people have been infected all over the world by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), and one thousand one hundred ten (1,110) cases resulted in death;

WHEREAS, upon the directive of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, amidst the serious dangers and risks present, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of
Health (DOH) deployed teams to Wuhan City, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak, to bring home Filipinos residing and working there;

WHEREAS, the DFA, through the Philippine Consulate in Shanghai, facilitated the processing of repatriation of Filipinos from China’s Hubei Province, and also distributed relief goods to Filipinos in Wuhan City who were stranded in their homes due to government restrictions limiting travel in order to contain the dreaded virus;

WHEREAS, a team composed of three (3) personnel from the DFA and five (5) personnel from the DOH flew to Wuhan City in the evening of February 8 to assist in the repatriation process onboard a flight chartered by the Philippine Government;

WHEREAS, the three (3) members of the DFA Health Emergency Response Team from the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers’ Affairs are Assistance-to-Nationals officers Mr. Rowell Casaglan, Mr. Abdul Rahman Pacasum and Mr. Richard delos Santos;

WHEREAS, the five (5) members of the DOH contingent are physicians Neptali Labasan, a quarantine medical officer at the DOH-Bureau of Quarantine and Oliver Macalinao of the San Lorenzo Ruiz General Hospital; nurses Rowell Divinagracia of the Philippine Heart Center and Jose Juan of the DOH-Health Emergency Management Bureau; and medical technologist Elmer Collong of the Philippine Heart Center;

WHEREAS, the DOH team members are “seasoned responders” who have experience in various humanitarian missions in the Philippines and abroad, while the DFA team is experienced in repatriation operations involving distressed overseas Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the two (2) members from the Philippine Consulate General in Shanghai, namely: Mark Anthony Geguera and Sanny Darren Bejarin completed the ten (10)-member Philippine repatriation team;
WHEREAS, on February 9, 2020, at around 6:59 a.m., the Philippine Government brought back to the country a total of thirty (30) Filipinos, which included twenty-nine (29) adults and one (1) infant, onboard the chartered flight which landed at the Haribon Hangar in Clark Air Base;

WHEREAS, upon their arrival, the repatriated Filipinos were safely and swiftly transferred from the plane into their dedicated buses, and brought to the Athletes’ Village in New Clark City in Tarlac which will be their home for the fourteen (14)-day quarantine period where the DOH, DFA-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers’ Affairs (OUMWA), and the Philippine Consulate General in Shanghai team shall also look after their well-being;

WHEREAS, these brave individuals not only answered to the call of duty, but exhibited a strong sense of compassion for our “kababayan” and nationalism that motivated them to volunteer their services and expertise to undertake this critical mission;

WHEREAS, the heroism, courage, and empathy of the ten (10)-member team of the Philippine Government for fellow Filipinos are truly remarkable, inspiring, and worth of emulation and recognition;

WHEREAS, the DFA and DOH’s efforts highlight the commitment of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s administration to provide a safe and comfortable life to Filipinos, even those overseas, in times of emergencies;

WHEREAS, during this trying time, it is likewise urged that this not be a time for stigma or discrimination, but rather a time for solidarity and compassion, as exemplified by the modern-day heroism and valiant efforts of the DFA and DOH teams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To honor the heroism, courage and great compassion of the following members of the Philippine Government Team that repatriated the distressed overseas Filipino workers from Wuhan City, the epicenter of the outbreak of the COVID-19:
(1) Dr. Neptali Labasan  
(2) Dr. Oliver Macalinao  
(3) Mr. Rowell Divinagracia  
(4) Mr. Jose Juan  
(5) Mr. Elmer Collong  
(6) Mr. Rowell Casalang  
(7) Mr. Abdul Rahman Pacasum  
(8) Mr. Richard delos Santos  
(9) Mr. Mark Anthony Giguera  
(10) Mr. Sanny Darren Bejarin  

Adopted,

[Signature]

ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO  
Speaker  

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on February 12, 2020.

[Signature]

JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES  
Secretary General