

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 913

Submitted by the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs on April 12, 2021
Re : House Resolution No. 1702
Recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1344
Sponsors: Representatives Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza and Macnell M. Lusotan

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs to which was referred

House Resolution No. 1344 introduced by Representatives Macnell M. Lusotan and Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY, PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION, OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION, AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS, TO CREATE A TASK FORCE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS DURING SEA MISHAPS OCCURING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS, FOREIGN WATERS AND THE OPEN SEA AND ENSURING THAT THE FAMILIES OF SURVIVING, MISSING OR DEAD FILIPINO CREW MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND LEGAL CLAIMS FROM PRIVATE ENTITIES


has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Resolution No. 1702, entitled:

RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY, PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION, OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION, AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CREATE AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE, WHICH SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS DURING SEA

MISHAPS AND OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN
TERRITORIAL WATERS, FOREIGN WATERS AND THE OPEN
SEAS; LOOKING INTO CASES OF MISSING SEAFARERS WHILE
ON-BOARD THEIR VESSELS; AND ENSURING THAT THE
FAMILIES OF SURVIVING, MISSING OR DEAD SEAFARERS WILL
RECEIVE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND
LEGAL CLAIMS FROM PRIVATE ENTITIES

be adopted in substitution of House Resolution No. 1344 with Representatives Macnell M. Lusotan, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao, Ferdinand R. Gaité, Marisol C. Panotes, Edgar M. Chatto, Emmarie “Lolypop” M. Ouano-Dizon, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Wilton Tan Kho, and John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
Chairperson
Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1702
(in substitution of House Resolution No. 1344)

Introduced by

Representatives Macnell M. Lusotan, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao, Ferdinand R. Gaité, Marisol C. Panotes, Edgar M. Chatto, Emmarie “Lolypop” M. Ouano-Dizon, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Wilton Tan Kho, and John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto

RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY, PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION, OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION, AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CREATE AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE, WHICH SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS DURING SEA MISHAPS AND OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS, FOREIGN WATERS AND THE OPEN SEAS; LOOKING INTO CASES OF MISSING SEAFARERS WHILE ON-BOARD THEIR VESSELS; AND ENSURING THAT THE FAMILIES OF SURVIVING, MISSING OR DEAD SEAFARERS WILL RECEIVE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND LEGAL CLAIMS FROM PRIVATE ENTITIES

WHEREAS, the yearly average loss of ships with over 100 Gross Tonnage during the last 10 years stands at 95 ships. The Philippines, the South China, Indochina and Indonesia maritime regions are the hotspots for ship losses and, with the loss of 12 vessels over the past year, accounts for almost 30% of total losses;

WHEREAS, despite the decline in average ship losses in the recent years, the number of reported shipping casualties in 2019 actually increased by 5% or about 2,815;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is the top supplier of seafarers globally, supplying 449,463 competent seafarers in 2017, and accounting for approximately 25% of the world’s crewing requirement;

WHEREAS, the most recent sea tragedy involving the Panamanian livestock carrier Gulf Livestock 1, which allegedly sank west of Amami Oshima island in Japan on 02 September 2020, involves 43 crew members, 39 of which are Filipino seafarers;

WHEREAS, the Japanese Coast Guard, the maritime entity with jurisdiction over the area, launched search and rescue operations immediately after receiving the distress call. The Japanese Coast Guard rescued 2 Filipino survivors and retrieved the body of a Filipino crew member;

1 **WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to conduct search and rescue operations immediately after a
2 sea mishap, owing to the fact that the drift scenario, in which the search and rescue operations will
3 be conducted, expands as time progresses, and because manpower and resources readily available
4 for the conduct of search and rescue operations are usually limited;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, during the hearing of the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs on 29 October
7 2020, Representative Macnell M. Lusotan of MARINO Party-list moved for the filing of a House
8 Resolution urging the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment,
9 Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration,
10 Philippine Coast Guard and Maritime Industry Authority to create a task force which will initiate
11 and conduct Search and Rescue Operations for the 36 missing Filipino crew members of the M/V
12 Gulf Livestock 1, which motion was duly approved by the Committee and strongly supported by
13 all government agencies represented during the hearing;

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the families of Filipino seafarers, including those of the crew members of M/V Gulf
16 Livestock 1, are heavily dependent on the remittances, which were cut short after the discovery of
17 a ship's sinking. These families have no available alternative source of income to finance their
18 expenses;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, seafarers' or their families' claims for disability or death benefits of seafarers take
21 time to process, especially when contested or neglected by the manning agency or the principal or
22 shipowner;

23
24 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives strongly urges the
25 Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Transportation, Department of Labor and
26 Employment, Department of Justice, Philippine Coast Guard, Maritime Industry Authority,
27 Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration,
28 and other relevant government agencies to create an Inter-Agency Task Force, which shall be
29 responsible for conducting search and rescue operations of Filipino seafarers during sea mishaps
30 and other maritime incidents occurring in territorial waters, foreign waters and the open seas;
31 looking into cases of missing seafarers while on-board their vessels; and ensuring that the families
32 of surviving, missing or dead seafarers will receive appropriate government assistance and legal
33 claims from private entities.

34
35 **RESOLVED FURTHER**, that to strengthen coordination among the aforementioned agencies
36 and to promote accountability: the Philippine Coast Guard shall lead all search and rescue efforts
37 in relation to sea mishaps or maritime incidents occurring within the Philippine waters; the
38 Department of Foreign Affairs shall lead coordination with the governments of other States and
39 inter-agency coordination for the conduct of search and rescue operations outside the Philippine
40 territory as well as for the presumption of death of missing seafarers; and the Department of Justice
41 shall lead all efforts in ensuring that the families of surviving, missing or dead Filipino crew
42 members will receive appropriate government assistance as well as legal claims and benefits from
43 private entities.

44
45 Adopted,