

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2502



Sponsored by: Rep. BIENVENIDO “Benny” ABANTE, Jr.

“RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FLIGHTS FOR HONG KONG-BASED COVID-POSITIVE FILIPINO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, AND TO UTILIZE THE MANILA QUIRINO GRANDSTAND FIELD HOSPITAL AS A QUARANTINE FACILITY WHERE THEY CAN BE MONITORED AND CARED FOR.”

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are currently 150,000 to 200,000 Filipino overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) employed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

WHEREAS, there is a surge in COVID-19 cases in Hong Kong, which is fueled by the Omicron variant of the virus.

WHEREAS, the Hong Kong government on 22 February 2022 reported 6,211 new COVID-19 cases, 32 deaths, and an additional 9,369 cases that came up positive in preliminary tests.

WHEREAS, a study by researchers at the University of Hong Kong projected that COVID-19 infections in the territory could by late March peak at 180,000 new cases per day, with the number of daily deaths potentially peaking at near 100.

WHEREAS, in response to the surge of COVID-19 cases, the Hong Kong government has ordered compulsory COVID-19 testing, with each of the territory’s 7.4 million residents required to submit to three rounds of tests.

WHEREAS, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office has reported that 60 Filipino OFWs have tested positive for COVID-19, a number that could increase in the days to come.

WHEREAS, there are reports that COVID-positive OFWs in Hong Kong have experienced difficulties due to limited access to hospitals and quarantine facilities due to the surge of cases in the territory, challenges that could be magnified if more Filipino OFWs test positive for the disease and more Hong Kong residents get infected with COVID-19.

WHEREAS, it is the Philippine government's responsibility to extend assistance to our citizens overseas, especially our OFWs.

WHEREAS, the number of COVID-19 cases in the country has steadily declined, with only 1,019 new COVID-19 infections as of 22 February 2022, and a positivity rate of 6.4%

WHEREAS, there are numerous quarantine and health facilities in Metro Manila that could house COVID-positive OFWs, including the Manila Field Hospital in the Quirino Grandstand.

WHEREAS, the government will be in a better position to care for and to treat COVID-positive OFWs and overseas Filipinos if they are in the Philippines.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, to urge the National Government to provide free flights for COVID-positive Hong Kong-based OFWs and Filipino citizens, and to facilitate their transfer to quarantine facilities in the country such as the Manila Field Hospital in the Quirino Grandstand.

ADOPTED,



BIENVENIDO "BENNY" ABANTE JR