

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 41, March 03, 2014 ]**

**CREATING AN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES ON GIVING GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN DISTRESS**

WHEREAS , the State is mandated to promote and protect the rights and welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);

WHEREAS , there is a need to rationalize the policy of the Government in giving assistance to OFWs in distress; and

WHEREAS , the creation of an Inter-Agency Committee to formulate and implement the guidelines on giving governmental assistance to OFWs in distress can harmonize and streamline the efforts of government to address the needs of said OFWs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III , President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation and Composition . The Inter-Agency Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) is hereby created to study, prepare and implement the Guidelines on giving governmental assistance to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in distress. It shall also study the parity of punishment under the laws of the foreign country and the Philippines, and any applicable treaties allowing service of sentence in a convicted person's home country, and review the performance of the legal counsels who represent OFWs in distress.

The Committee shall be headed by the Vice President of the Philippines and shall be composed of representatives from the following: Office of the Executive Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Justice, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, and the Presidential Management Staff, as members.

The Committee may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, and request the local government units and private sector for assistance as the circumstances and exigencies may require.

The duly authorized representative of the member-agencies of the Committee shall have a rank not lower than Assistant Secretary.

SECTION 2. The Guidelines . Comprehensive guidelines on giving governmental assistance to OFWs in distress shall be formulated which will include, but not be limited to the following: