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WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10022 authorizes the POEA Governing Board, after consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), to impose a ban on the deployment of Filipino migrant workers in pursuit of national interest or when public welfare so requires;

WHEREAS, on 13 January 2012, the POEA Governing Board issued Resolution No. 1, Series of 2012, based on Crisis Alert Level 3 imposed by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on South Sudandue to worsening political and security conditions in the country thereby prohibiting the deployment of workers thereto:

WHEREAS, on 22 March 2012, the POEA Governing Board issued Resolution No. 6, Series of 2012, lifting the total deployment ban on South Sudan due to the lowering of the Crisis Alert Level by the DFA, from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 1:

WHEREAS, on 24 December 2013, POEA issued Governing Board Resolution No. 14, Series of 2013 reinstating the total deployment ban on South Sudan based on Crisis Alert Level 3 reimposed by DFA on the said country due to deteriorating peace and order conditions brought about by continuing ethnic violence therein;

WHEREAS, in a letter dated 06 July 2015, the DFA cited the Philippine government's earlier decision to allow personnel of international organizationsto return to South Sudan which is currently under Crisis Alert Level 3, on the condition that employers assume responsibility for the timely and safe evacuation of their Filipino workers should the security situation demand the same;

WHEREAS, in a letter dated 07 January 2016, the DFA reiterated that South Sudan is under Alert Level 3 (Voluntary Repatriation Phase) and as such, the travel and deployment ban on all overseas Filipino workers is maintained. However, Filipinos working for the United Nations, other international organizations and international NGOs with travel clearance from the DFA may travel and temporarily stay in South Sudan; and

WHEREAS, in the same letter, DFA recommended that POEA process the work contracts of OFWs employed by Pacific Architects and Engineers Incorporated (PAE) in its projects with the US State Department in South Sudan under the Flight Ops Support Program;

WHEREAS, on 08 June 2016, the DFA informed the DOLE that it is lowering the alert level in South Sudan from Alert Level 3 (Voluntary Repatriation)

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to Alert Level 2 (Restriction Phase) in view of the improved and stabilized political situation in the country owing to the formation on 29 April 2016 of the transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) that will administer South Sudan for the next two and a half years or until elections are held;

WHEREAS, under Alert Level 2, processing and deployment of workers shall be allowed only for OFWs returning to their current employers and are with existing employment contracts;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, which has diplomatic jurisdiction over South Sudan, likewise reported that there were no untoward incident affecting Filipinos since October 2015 providing a political environment conducive for Filipinos to engage in a business enterprise or own real property in the said country as foreigners are allowed by the South Sudan government to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, RESOLVES AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to allow the redeployment of returning Filipino workers to South Sudan, subject to proof of existing employment as determined by POEA. The deployment ban for newlyhired OFWs shall be maintained.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.

ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ

Secretary of Labor and Employment and Chairperson of the Board

POEA Administrator and

Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Board

ALEXANDER E. ASUNCION

Member

MILAGROS ISABEL A. CRISTOBAL

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