

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 SEP 28 AM 11:07

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1594

RECEIVED BY: JSV

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED EXTORTION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE “TANIM-BALA” SCAM IN PHILIPPINE AIRPORTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT MECHANISMS TO STANDARDIZE THE PHILIPPINE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AND CURB CORRUPT PRACTICES IN THE PHILIPPINE TRANSPORTATION HUBS

WHEREAS, air transport is a crucial component in Philippine development due to its capacity to link people, products and resources from all over the world in a secure, fast, and reliable manner;

WHEREAS, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) is the primary air transportation hub of the country;

WHEREAS, the four NAIA terminals have handled 236,442 arriving and departing flights, served more than 31 million departing and arriving passengers, and dispatched 322,762 metric tons of inbound and outbound cargo in 2014 alone¹;

WHEREAS, sustained NAIA operations has provided thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities and billions of pesos worth of public and corporate revenues;

WHEREAS, the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) has generated more than nine billion pesos in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014² from toll and terminal fees, landing and parking fees, rent, and other business and service income sources;

WHEREAS, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) has collected more than 5.7 billion pesos in FY 2014³ from facility utilization charges and operation fees, licenses, permits, certifications, fines and penalties, and other business and service income sources;

WHEREAS, more than 598 million pesos was earmarked for the Office of Transportation Security in FY 2014 for the provision of aviation security infrastructure, equipment, supplies and personnel from the collections of MIAA and CAAP, among others⁴;

WHEREAS, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) has collected travel taxes amounting to 3.852 billion pesos in FY 2014⁵;

¹ MIAA Terminal 1, 2, 3, and 4 Operational Statistics 2011-2015

² Commission on Audit (2014). “Manila International Airport Authority Annual Audit Report for FY 2014.”

³ Commission on Audit (2014). “Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines Annual Audit Report for FY 2014.”

⁴ Commission on Audit (2014). “DOTC – Office for Transportation Security Annual Audit Report for FY 2014.”

⁵ Commission on Audit (2014). “Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority Annual Audit Report for FY 2014.”

WHEREAS, the thriving aviation industry in NAIA has provided opportunities for unscrupulous individuals to carry out patently criminal acts;

WHEREAS, an official from Wild Bird Photographers of the Philippines reported that foreign photographers experienced extortion from airport employees in NAIA Terminals 3 and 4 in 2014⁶;

WHEREAS, some reports reveal that many Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) leaving for United Arab Emirates (UAE) were likewise subjected to extortion activities⁷ allegedly perpetrated by airport personnel;

WHEREAS, a Filipino *balikbayan* and an American missionary recently became victims of the so-called “tanim-bala” scam, wherein airport personnel allegedly extort unsuspecting passengers after bullets are planted in their luggage⁸;

WHEREAS, past and recent reports of extortion allegedly committed by airport personnel damage NAIA’s reputation, giving an impression that the facility is gradually becoming a major extortion hub of the country;

WHEREAS, extortion schemes and other forms of misconduct undermine the efforts made by the Philippine government in curbing corruption and in maximizing the Philippines’ potential for business and tourism;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution expressly directs the State to maintain honesty and integrity in public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

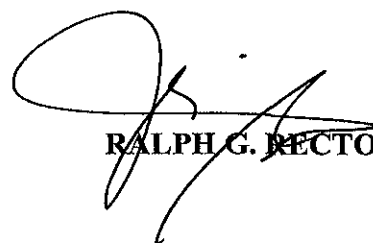
WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 292 s. 1987, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, declares that public office is a public trust and mandates public officers and employees to be accountable to the people, to serve them with the utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency, to act with patriotism and justice, and to lead modest lives at all time;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act of 1960, empowers the State to repress certain acts of both public officers and private persons which constitute or may lead to graft or corrupt practices;

WHEREAS, upholding integrity in public office warrants the development of a stronger legal and institutional framework to reduce gaps in government operations and to penalize corrupt acts perpetrated by government and non-government personnel;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged extortion activities, including the “tanim-bala” scam in Philippine airports, with the end in view of institutionalizing and strengthening government mechanisms to standardize transport security administration and curb corrupt practices in the Philippine transportation hubs.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO

/mdg

⁶ Pascua, A. (2014, May 31). “Extortion of tourists continues at the NAIA, Mr President”. www.rappler.com/move-ph/ispeak/59340-extortion-tourists-naia . Retrieved on September 25, 2015.

⁷ The Filipino Times (2014, July 10). “Dubai OFWs urged to fight extortion at NAIA.” www.rappler.com/move-ph/balikbayan/62896-dubai-ofws-extortion. Retrieved on September 25, 2015

⁸ Esperas, R. (2015, September 24). “Laglag bala’ victimizing passengers in NAIA?”. www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/metro-manila/09/24/15/laglag-bala-victimizing-passengers-naia. Retrieved on September 25, 2015.