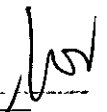


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1635

APPROVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORTED ‘LAGLAG-BALA’ EXTORTION SCHEME
AT THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides: “The maintenance of peace
2 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare
3 are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

4 WHEREAS, various media sources reported that personnel of the Office of
5 Transportation Security arrested two passengers—a Hong Kong-bound overseas Filipino worker
6 and a Japanese national for Tokyo—at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) on 25
7 October 2015 after bullets were found in their luggage;

8 WHEREAS, Gloria Ortinez, 56, a migrant worker for 20 years, was allegedly arrested for
9 keeping a carbine rifle bullet in her carry-on bag, while Kazunobu Sakamoto, 33, from Tokyo,
10 was nabbed for two bullets for a 9-millimeter pistol in the right side pocket of his luggage;

11 WHEREAS, both Ortinez and Sakamoto have reportedly been charged with illegal
12 possession of ammunition before the Pasay prosecutor’s office on October 26, but only
13 Sakamoto was able to post bail for ₱80,000;

14 WHEREAS, the arrests were made amid persistent rumors that NAIA personnel are
15 involved in an extortion scheme known as “laglag-bala” (bullet drop);

16 WHEREAS, the modus operandi allegedly involves planting bullets in the luggage of
17 passengers, who are then asked for huge amounts of cash under threat that cases will be pursued
18 against them;

19 WHEREAS, prior to the arrest of Ortinez and Sakamoto, at least four others have
20 complained that they are being wrongfully accused of attempting to board their flights while
21 carrying bullets;

1 WHEREAS, a signature campaign via online petition platform Change.org, so far signed
2 by some 3,000 people, is calling for a Senate investigation on the alleged scheme, which, if true,
3 counts among its victims the millions of Filipino migrant workers;


4 WHEREAS, the scandal is also seen to impact Philippine tourism, as it sows fear among
5 foreigners using Philippine airports and erodes public trust in local law enforcers;

6 WHEREAS, the Congress must ensure that R.A. No. 10591, otherwise known as the
7 Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Act, is, on the one hand, properly implemented and,
8 on the other, not abused by enforcers of the law;

9 WHEREAS, the Congress must also establish a task force that will investigate alleged
10 illicit activity of state agents at airports, recommend sanctions against those involved, and put in
11 place mechanisms that will deter similar schemes;

12 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
13 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported “laglag-
14 bala” extortion scheme at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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