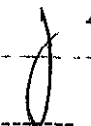


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Third Regular Session

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution 1636

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, PUBLIC SERVICES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING 'TANIM BALA' INCIDENTS AS IT IS A SHAMEFUL MANIFESTATION OF ABSENCE OF ORDER IN TRANSPORT SECURITY WITH THE INTENTION THAT THE PRACTICE BE HALTED IMMEDIATELY AND THAT ORDERLINESS IN RULES AND PROCEDURES BE ESTABLISHED TO SHIELD OVERSEAS WORKERS, REGULAR TOURISTS AND FOREIGN GUESTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the significance of maintaining orderliness in the bureaucracy:

- "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy." (Article II, Section 5)
- "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." (Article II, Section 9)

Whereas, the said constitutional axioms are complemented by hallmark provisions on the recognition of human rights:

- "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights." (Article II, Section 11)
- "The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, x x x" (Article XIII, Section 1)

Whereas, the "tanim-bala" incidents are alarming as shameful acts reportedly perpetrated by some airport and security personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport who allegedly extort money by planting bullets in luggages;

Whereas, the criminal acts of extortion are aimed at preying on our innocent citizens, especially our balikbayans, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), and also tourists or guests from foreign lands who arrive in the Philippines;

Whereas, it is recognized that security personnel have a duty to perform: to protect the passengers, to ensure their safety and to enforce laws and order concerning contraband items;

Whereas, the security personnel in our airports should not use this authority or duty to perform to extort money and prey on the innocent;

Whereas, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is the main air transportation hub of the country, serving around 4.5 million passengers yearly<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, very recently, an Overseas Filipino Worker named Mrs. Gloria Ortinez was prevented from leaving for Hongkong after a bullet of a carbine rifle was allegedly found in her hand-carried bag<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas, per reports, the “Tanim Bala” incident is a collaborative extortion racket and involves layers of personnel and of recent, has victimized a number of OFWs, regular Filipino tourists and guests from foreign countries including a Japanese tourist and a member of Philippine House of Representatives<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas, the Tanim Bala incident is sowing fear in the hearts of most OFWs, and in fact, as reported, MIGRANTE Middle East through its coordinator John Leonard Monterona indicated that a number of migrant workers are fearful of the syndicate when they return home;

Whereas, the Tanim-Bala scam must be stopped soonest with the case of Mrs. Ortinez deliberated and handled swiftly and with justice;

Whereas, the government should investigate these incidents diligently, rigorously and thoroughly, with the intention of making certain that everything comes to light, those who are guilty be brought to justice and that our migrant workers and kababayans are protected;

Whereas, this resolution is submitted and serves as a reminder to our OFWs and travelers to exercise high degree of caution during any sort of travel; Now therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, Public Services and other appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming ‘Tanim Bala’ incidents as it is a shameful manifestation of absence of order in transport security with the intention that the practice be halted immediately and that orderliness in rules and procedures be established to shield overseas Filipino workers, regular tourists and foreign guests and their families.

Adopted,

  
GRACE POE

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<sup>1</sup> DOTC 2014 Year in Review: Aviation, NAIA Upgrades Top Achievements

<sup>2</sup> Philippine Star, “Japanese, OFW arrested at NAIA for bullets in bag” by Rudy Santos, October 28, 2015

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Philippine Star