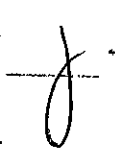


Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RECEIVED BY: 

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING REPORTS ON RAMPANT
"LAGLAG BALA" EXTORTION MODUS OPERANDI INCIDENTS IN THE NINYO
AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is the primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating, implementing and administrative entity of the executive branch of the government on the promotion, development and regulation of a dependable and coordinated network of transportation and communications systems, as well as in the fast, safe, efficient and reliable transportation and communications services¹;

WHEREAS, the Office for Transportation Security (OTS), an attached agency of the DOTC, is the single authority responsible for the security of transportation systems of the country, including, but not limited to, Civil Aviation, Sea Transport and Maritime Infrastructure, Land Transportation, Rail System and Infrastructure²;

WHEREAS, according to news reports, a first time tourist, was detained for five days by airport police at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 for allegedly concealing a bullet in his checked-in baggage³;

WHEREAS, the tourist said that a security guard pulled out a .22 caliber bullet from the pocket of his luggage after repeatedly scanning it on the X-ray machine and he alleged that a male security personnel told him that his problem will be settled for P30,000⁴;

WHEREAS, it was reported that a "*balikbayan*" in a wheelchair also experienced bullets mysteriously being found in her luggage and that she paid P500 to an airport security personnel to allow her to depart the country⁵;

¹ Department of Transportation and Communications Website, <http://www.dotc.gov.ph/index.php/2014-09-02-04-16-02/2014-09-03-06-24-55>.

² Office for Transportation Security Website, <http://ots.gov.ph/index.php/transparency/about-us/mandate-mission-vision>.

³ ABS-CBN News Website, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/metro-manila/09/24/15/laglag-bala-victimizing-passengers-naia>.

⁴ Ibid citation [3].

⁵ Ibid citation [3].

WHEREAS, most recently a 56-year old Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW), who has been working in Hong Kong for 20 years, also experienced the same ordeal of bullets being found in her bag and being detained by airport authorities⁶;

WHEREAS, the said OFW was detained after failing to pay P80,000 bail on charges of illegal possession of ammunition filed before the Pasay prosecutor's office⁷;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that a Japanese national was detained by members of the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-AVSEGROUP) after personnel of the OTS claimed an x-ray of his luggage showed images of bullets for a 9mm pistol⁸;

WHEREAS, despite numerous reports of similar incidents, the concerned government agencies have not taken steps to prevent "*laglag bala*" extortion modus operandi in airports;

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing incidents⁹ unsuspecting incoming and outgoing passengers are being victimized by opportunistic airport security personnel which result in negative feedbacks from tourists as well as lost of employment for our OFWs;

WHEREAS, the rampant extortion incidents in airports is a matter of public interest that clearly warrants an investigation, in aid of legislation, in order to prevent, combat or eradicate illicit activities such as the "*laglag bala*" modus operandi that poses threat to the fundamental rights, security and safety of passengers;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding reports on rampant "*laglag bala*" extortion modus operandi incidents in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁶ Rappler Website, <http://www.rappler.com/nation/110836-susan-ople-ofw-naia-bullet-planting-scam>.

⁷ Philstar website, <http://www.philstar.com/metro/2015/10/28/1515625/japanese-ofw-arrested-naia-bullets-bag>

⁸ Ibid citation [7]

⁹ Latest Trendz Website, <http://www.latesttrendz.org/ofws-beware-of-alleged-laglag-bala-bullet-scam-at-naia/>.