

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



15 NOV -9 P1 20

SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 1653

RECEIVED BY: JSV

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Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO LOOK INTO THE ALLEGED "TANIM BALA" EXTORTION ACTIVITIES PERPETRATED BY AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL AGAINST PASSENGERS WITH THE END VIEW OF IMPROVING THE COMFORT AND SAFETY OF OUR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRAVELERS**

**WHEREAS**, Article III Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution on the Bill of Rights states that the right to travel shall not be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1 of Executive Order No. 311 dated 26 April 2004 designates the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) under the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) as the single authority responsible for the security of the transportation systems of the country including civil aviation, sea transport and maritime infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, among the powers and functions provided to the OTS under Section 2 of the same EO are the exercise of responsibility for transportation security operations such as "security screening of passengers, baggage and cargoes, and hiring, retention, training and testing of security screening personnel" and the "examination and performance audit of transportation security personnel, equipment and facilities";

**WHEREAS**, in recent months there has been a rising number of complaints by passengers—whether local or foreign travelers, who have been apprehended due to the presence of ammunition, particularly bullets in their baggages;

**WHEREAS**, it has been alleged that there is a criminal syndicate operating for several years now in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, targeting passengers with connecting flights by planting bullets in their luggages. To avoid criminal charges of illegal possession of ammunition and missing their flights, these passengers are more likely to pay a fee in exchange for the dropping of charges against them;

**WHEREAS**, one news report mentioned that from January to October 2015, the OTS intercepted "48 complete bullets (with lid, primer, powder,

etc.), 21 empty shells, 4 amulets with chain, 4 dead ammo and 11 amulets without chain”;

**WHEREAS**, the same article revealed that security fees collected from the terminal fees paid by passengers have reached almost one billion pesos since 2008;

**WHEREAS**, being the agency tasked to oversee aviation security in the country, the OTS is expected to implement remedial and pro-active measures that are not limited to the installation of additional closed-circuit televisions across transportation facilities but to ensure the integrity of its security personnel;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that concerned government agencies conduct a comprehensive, fact-finding investigation to determine the truth of these allegations given its impact on the country’s tourism industry and severe harassment it causes to passengers, most especially to overseas Filipino workers;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, directing the Senate Committee on Public Services to look into the alleged “tanim bala” extortion activities perpetrated by airport security personnel against passengers, with the end view of improving the comfort and safety of our domestic and foreign travelers;

Adopted,

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator