

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 NOV 10 AIO :05

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 1661

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Teofisto "TG" Guingona III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RECENT REPORTS OF "LAGLAG BALA" AND "TANIM BALA" SCAM AS MEANS OF EXTORTION IN PHILIPPINE AIRPORTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING LAWS TO CURB CORRUPTION BY REASON OF MISFEASANCE, MALFEASANCE, AND NONFEASANCE OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, Section 27 Article 2 of the Constitution provides that "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article 11 of the Constitution provides that "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice and lead modest lives";

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, Section 35, paragraph b(7) of Republic Act No. 6975 (The Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990) states: "...The Aviation Security Unit, in coordination with airport authorities, shall secure all the country's airports against offensive and terroristic acts that threaten civil aviation, exercise operational control and supervision over all agencies involved in airport security operation, and enforce all laws and regulations relative to air travel protection and safety";

WHEREAS, in 2004, two (2) Executive Orders, EO 277 and EO 311, were issued which created the Office for Transportation Security (OTS). The OTS is mandated, among others, to exercise responsibility for transportation security operations including, but not limited to, security screening of passengers, baggage and cargoes, and hiring, retention, training and testing of security screening personnel;

WHEREAS, the Philippine airports are the international gateways to the country, with the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Manila as the main and premier gateway of the country;

WHEREAS, recent reports reveal that many Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) were victimized by the so-called "tanim bala" or "laglag bala" scam at the NAIA, wherein airport personnel allegedly extort unsuspecting passengers after bullets are planted in their luggage;

WHEREAS, said extortion activities allegedly committed by airport personnel damage the reputation of the Philippines in air transportation, giving the impression that our airports are gradually becoming major extortion hubs of the country;

WHEREAS, the extortion schemes and other misfeasance, malfeasance and nonfeasance of airport personnel undermine the government's efforts in enforcing our laws on graft and corruption, and promoting the Philippines' business and tourism;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon) to investigate, in aid of legislation, the recent reports of "laglag bala" and "tanim bala" scam as means of extortion in Philippine airports, with the end in view of strengthening laws to curb corruption by reason of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance of public officials


TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III