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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1702

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLIGHT OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN TOURISTS ARRIVING AT THE NINYOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA) GIVEN THE ALLEGED OVERCHARGING AND OTHER UNSCRUPULOUS ACTS BY AIRPORT TAXIS WHICH MAY DAMPEN THE COUNTRY'S TOURISM CAMPAIGN**

WHEREAS, a number of dreadful stories have been circulating online about airport taxis notoriously overcharging and duping passengers—whether they are local tourists, returning overseas Filipino workers or foreigners visiting our country;

WHEREAS, in a recent Facebook post by Top Gear Philippines, a popular automobile magazine, a group was allegedly quoted a fixed rate of P1,800 by an airport yellow taxi—which they say was turned into a rental car—from the airport to their office in Mandaluyong. Noting the high rate and the irregularity of said transaction, the group refused the offer and opted to join the long queue for a metered taxi which charged them P320 only;

WHEREAS, based on the same post, an American was also quoted a bloated fare of P3,200 from the airport to Makati;

WHEREAS, prior to these, several complaints of overcharging and other unscrupulous acts done by airport taxi drivers, allegedly in connivance with airport security personnel, have also been reported by passengers who felt they were helpless and powerless against these abusive taxi drivers since only accredited taxis are allowed to pick up passengers in the airport;

WHEREAS, the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) had long barred empty white cabs from entering the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) complex, and only allowed them to pick up passengers if they had also brought passengers when they arrived there. The MIAA said such restriction was in response to security concerns and complaints over regular taxis that overcharge, extort or are being used for robbery;

WHEREAS, early last year, the MIAA has allowed unaccredited metered taxis to pick up passengers at the arrival areas of NAIA Terminals 2 and 3 but only during peak hours to meet the high demand from airline companies and travellers. The MIAA still cautioned the passengers against riding these ordinary taxis, saying that only the over 1,600 airport-accredited taxis and vehicles for rent are accountable to the MIAA;

WHEREAS, these incidents are not isolated cases and should no longer fell on deaf ears. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the MIAA, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and other appropriate government agencies should not ignore this issue and ensure that these accredited taxis and rental cars charge reasonable fares to protect the welfare of the passengers;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned government agencies have various accreditation and regulatory systems precisely instituted to protect the passengers from possible abuse and exploitation of dishonest and shady drivers as well as other individuals or groups involved in this deceitful practice;

WHEREAS, there is a need to investigate this unscrupulous acts for the protection and prevention of untoward harm to local and domestic passengers, to assuage any fear and anxiety caused by this issue to airport passengers and tourists, and to review and strengthen the government and the airport's policy on the operation of accredited airport taxis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Tourism and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the plight of local and foreign tourists given the alleged overcharging and other unscrupulous acts by airport taxis, and to provide more options and other viable modes of transportation for travellers arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in order to prevent further instances of abuse which may dampen the country's tourism campaign.



SENATOR SONNY ANGARA