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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 402

RECEIVED B.L. 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED AIRPORT SERVICE
FAILURE THAT CRIPPLED INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC FLIGHT
OPERATIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REVIEWING ALL THE
NAVIGATIONAL AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INSTALLED IN ALL
AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides: "The maintenance of
2 peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the
3 general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of
4 democracy"¹;

5
6 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) is the primary policy,
7 planning, programming, coordinating, implementing and administrative entity of the
8 executive branch of the government on the promotion, development and regulation
9 of a dependable and coordinated network of transportation and communications
10 systems, as well as in the fast, safe, efficient and reliable transportation and
11 communications services²;

12
13 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9497 created the Civil Aviation Authority of the
14 Philippines (CAAP) with the goal of providing the public a safe and efficient air
15 transportation, having jurisdiction over the restructuring of the civil aviation system,
16 the promotion, development and regulation of the technical operational safety and
17 aviation security under the civil aviation authority;

18
19 WHEREAS, on New Year's Day, flights were on hold/cancelled due to technical
20 issues in the communications, navigations, and surveillance system for air traffic
21 management affecting the radar services within the Philippine Flight Information
22 Region (FIR)³;

¹ Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

² Department of Transportation mandate. Available at <http://caraga.dotr.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/mission-vision/10-about-us/8-lto-district-extension-offices#agency-s-mandate-and-functions>

³ Cancelled Flights Today, 1 January 2023. Available at <https://www.escapemanila.com/2023/01/canceled-flights-january-1.html>

1 WHEREAS, nearly 300 domestic and international flights at the Manila airport in the
2 airport in the Philippines were either delayed, cancelled or diverted causing misery
3 for over 65,000 passengers during New Year holiday after a power outage hampered
4 air traffic operations⁴;

5
6 WHEREAS, DOTr Secretary Jaime J. Bautista said the problem started when
7 the Air Traffic Management Center, which oversees all flights in the Philippine
8 airspace, lost communication, radio, radar, and internet because of the power
9 outage⁵;

10
11 WHEREAS, in addition to the transportation sector problems, on January 3,
12 2023, tens of thousands of passengers trooped to the Port of Calapan in Oriental
13 Mindoro which resulted in thousands of travellers to wait for hours before they could
14 board their trips⁶;

15
16 WHEREAS, according to the DOTr, the passenger terminal building (PTB) of
17 the Port of Calapan is currently undergoing construction which limits the capacity of
18 the facility. There are around 36,000 passengers embarking and disembarking at the
19 port daily, the department said⁷;

20
21 WHEREAS, airport service quality and passenger satisfaction have a great
22 impact on tourism in our country and the said incident has left a big setback in the
23 government's effort to promote the Philippines;

24
25 WHEREAS, all concerned agencies should start to identify current and
26 potential hazards related to airports and seaports operations as we open up our
27 tourism and host several international events;

28
29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the
30 Senate of the Philippines directs the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry
31 in aid of legislation on the reported airport service failure that crippled international
32 and domestic flight operations with the objective of reviewing all the navigational
33 and communications equipment installed in all airports and seaports.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁴ Air traffic outage in Philippines causes long flight delays. Available at <https://apnews.com/article/philippines-manila-business-power-outages-4ceaaf6486ef6a16d85a196c3b0f3fd1>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ DOTr appeals for patience as Calapan port swamped with passenger. <https://mb.com.ph/2023/01/03/dotr-appeals-for-patience-as-calapan-port-swamped-with-passengers/>

⁷ Ibid