

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 418

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT**  
**AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TECHNICAL**  
**ISSUE THAT AFFECTED THE COMMUNICATIONS, NAVIGATION,**  
**SURVEILLANCE/ AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (CNS/ATM)**  
**SYSTEMS OF THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE**  
**PHILIPPINES (CAAP) ON NEW YEAR'S DAY OF 2023, TO THE**  
**DETRIMENT OF AIR PASSENGERS AND PHILIPPINE AIR**  
**TRANSPORT SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2023, at 9:45 A.M., the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) declared that the Communication, Navigation and Surveillance/ Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Systems at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) had suffered from a technical issue;

**WHEREAS**, the unfortunate incident affected over 65,000 passengers from more than 300 flights, and gave rise to security risks and real economic losses to both passengers and airline companies;

**WHEREAS**, the disruption in the air traffic system was due to the power outage at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which resulted in the loss of communication, radar, radio, and internet with the rest of the country's airports, causing the entire country's aviation to grind to a halt;

**WHEREAS**, the management of CAAP reported that the outage was the result of the failure of both primary and secondary power supplies, which was only restored at 7:45. P.M., or 10 hours later;

**WHEREAS**, even with the improvements introduced in 2018 to the country's CNS/ATM Systems worth Php 10.8 billion, Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista said that the air traffic management system is outdated and should be upgraded immediately and supported by a backup plan to protect the system in the event of a breakdown;

**WHEREAS**, the expected gradual recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic presents an opportunity for global air travel to resume and the economy to improve from recession, reduce economic losses and social uncertainty. Air passenger traffic in the country was 60.06 million in 2019 and plummeted in 2021 to only 7.72 million due to strict impositions on mobility;

**WHEREAS**, efficient transport is critical to economic growth and increase in investments. The incident exposed the country's weak transport governance and institutional capacity. It also severely damaged the country's reputation as a viable investment destination since its transport infrastructure and facilities could not pass muster. The economic and reputational damage will likely cost a great deal more than if we made the necessary investments and paid for the topnotch management so crucial to air traffic control;

**WHEREAS**, the incident in the country's gateway to the world rendered the global airspace vulnerable to attack and exploitation when its critical infrastructure, including its cyber network, was inoperable for a significant period;

**WHEREAS**, stakeholders must fulfill their responsibilities in maintaining secure and safe civil aviation operations that are conducive to economic growth and development and provide a comprehensive national effort for stability and confidence in aviation activities;

**WHEREAS**, the incident calls for a thorough evaluation and audit of the air traffic management system and the whole aviation operations to properly and efficiently address the institutional needs and policy framework that is responsive and adaptive to the changing demands of the sector;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for transparency and accountability among public officials and concerned government agencies who must submit a full report of what caused the air transport system fiasco, given the effect of the situation on passengers, industries, and the country's national security.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO STRONGLY URGE THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE TECHNICAL ISSUE THAT AFFECTED THE COMMUNICATIONS, NAVIGATION, SURVEILLANCE/ AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (CNS/ ATM) SYSTEM OF THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (CAAP) ON NEW YEAR'S DAY OF 2023, TO THE DETRIMENT OF AIR PASSENGERS AND PHILIPPINE AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM.**

*Adopted,*



**LOREN LEGARDA**