



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 463

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION
RAISING THE ALARM ON THE REPORTED "BUKAS MALETA" INCIDENTS AT THE NINYO AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING A SECURE BAGGAGE AND PASSENGER SYSTEM IN ALL PHILIPPINE AIRPORTS

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution puts
2 emphasis on the maintenance of peace and order, protection of life, liberty, and
3 property, and promotion of the general welfare as essential to the enjoyment by all
4 the people of the blessings of democracy;

5 WHEREAS, the Joint DOTC-DTI Administrative Order No. 01 of 2012 or the Air
6 Passenger Bill of Rights requires air carriers to reimburse up to half of the amount
7 allowed in the Montreal Convention, in its peso equivalent;

8 WHEREAS, international flights are covered by the Montreal Convention of
9 1999 or the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage
10 by Air, which provides financial compensation of up to \$1,700 for damaged, delayed,
11 or lost luggage;

12 WHEREAS, despite government efforts to improve the operations and
13 infrastructure of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), it remains to be one
14 of the most stressful airports in Asia due to various problems such as baggage
15 issues, as reported by travel surveys in 2022;¹

16 WHEREAS, there are numerous reports concerning stolen items and damaged
17 luggage of air passengers upon arriving at NAIA;

¹ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1707816/naia-third-most-stressful-airport-in-asia-study>

1 WHEREAS, news articles reported an incident involving passenger Efren San
2 Sebastian who lost some of his personal belongings including a Louis Vuitton bag
3 worth \$2,000, chocolates, and other expensive items inside his luggage after
4 arriving at NAIA Terminal 3 from New York on 29 December 2021;²

5 WHEREAS, another incident which went viral in TikTok relates the unfortunate
6 experience of Mr. Ady Cotoco who reported that his luggage lock was broken and
7 ₱200,000.00 worth of luxury items like shoes, bags, perfumes, and clothes were
8 stolen from his baggage last 08 September 2022 at NAIA Terminal 3;³

9 WHEREAS, in a vlog released on 22 January 2023, Vanjo Merano, more
10 popularly known as "Panlasang Pinoy", aired his frustrations when he discovered that
11 he lost valuable items in his luggage such as branded bags, sunglasses, perfumes,
12 and even chocolates upon arriving at NAIA Terminal 1 from Chicago via Philippine
13 Airlines (PAL) on December 2022;⁴

14 WHEREAS, in a Facebook post, actress and Quezon City 5th District Councilor
15 Aiko Melendez complained to the management of PAL about her damaged luggage
16 during her flight to Taiwan from the Philippines last 01 February 2023;⁵

17 WHEREAS, these incidents prove that stolen and damaged baggages are a
18 recurring problem at NAIA. As early as 2015, airport intelligence agents found
19 jewelries, wristwatches, blankets, and several padlocks inside the lockers of six
20 baggage handlers at NAIA Terminal 3;⁶

21 WHEREAS, such incidents negatively affect the economy and our reputation in
22 the international community, ultimately discouraging foreign tourists and investors
23 from entering the country;

24 WHEREAS, "Bukas Maleta" incidents in our airports should not be the norm
25 and must be properly addressed by the Department of Transportation and the Manila
26 International Airport Authority, in accordance with the redress provided under the Air

² <https://mb.com.ph/2022/01/18/fil-am-says-he-loses-expensive-bags-other-items-at-naia/>

³ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/09/09/2208538/miaa-sorry-tiktokers-luggage-was-ransacked-says-theft-happened-abroad>

⁴ <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/02/02/opinion/columns/stolen-pasalubong-at-manila-international-airport/1876887>

⁵ <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/celebrities/2023/02/02/241879/aiko-melendez-asks-pal-about-damaged-luggage/>

⁶ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/nation/metro-manila/04/17/15/stolen-items-found-airline-baggage-handlers-lockers>

1 Passenger Bill of Rights and the Montreal Convention, for the peace of mind of all air
2 passengers sojourning in our airports;

3 WHEREAS, existing protocols in handling passenger baggage in airports must
4 be evaluated and strengthened considering that these incidents reinforce our
5 unfortunate image as the world's worst airport and, ultimately, affect the country
6 negatively;

7 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of
8 the Philippines, to raise the alarm on the reported "Bukas Maleta" incidents at the
9 Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) with the end in view of ensuring a secure
10 baggage and passenger system in all Philippine airports.

Adopted,


GRACE POE