

WHEREAS, similar incidents surfaced where Filipinos travelling abroad have been offloaded or have missed their flights because of the inefficient process of the Bureau. A traveler who missed her flight to Taiwan in January 2023 has filed a complaint before the Ombudsman against two Immigration Officers for grave abuse of authority citing a similar experience;

WHEREAS, in the Statement issued by the Bureau regarding the December incident, the agency cited that the worsening cases of human trafficking and illegal recruitment prompted them to implement strict measures in monitoring departing travelers;

WHEREAS, in the said Statement, the Bureau mentioned that in 2022 alone, a total of 32,404 Filipinos were deferred departure. However, only 472 of this number have been found to be victims of human trafficking or illegal recruitment, while 873 were found to be misrepresenting themselves or presented fraudulent documents;

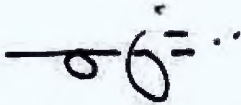
WHEREAS, the data is an indicator of an inefficient procedure of the Bureau in screening departing travelers, and an inadequate system of preventing cases of human trafficking and illegal recruitment;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to review the processes and departure protocols being implemented by the Bureau for international-bound passengers to avert similar incidents and to ultimately protect every Filipino citizen's guaranteed constitutional right to travel;

WHEREAS, there are pending proposals to modernize and further professionalize the Bureau as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 governing its operation is an eighty-year old law has outdated provisions that have ceased to be responsive to present day situations despite its several amendments and revisions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on reports of unprofessionalism and inefficiency hounding the Bureau of Immigration for its conduct of departure protocols and procedures for international-bound passengers, with the end in view of streamlining, professionalizing, and modernizing the agency's procedures and operations.

Adopted,


JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO 