

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



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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 667

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE LANDING AT THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OF A U.S. AIRFORCE AIRCRAFT

WHEREAS, Section 7, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall pursue an independent foreign policy and that the national interest is one of the paramount considerations in the country's relations with other states;

WHEREAS, under Section 28 of the same article of the Constitution, the State adopts and implements a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest, subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law;

WHEREAS, under Article VIII of the Republic of the Philippines-United States Visiting Forces Agreement, aircraft operated by or for the United States armed forces may enter the Philippines upon approval of the Government of the Philippines and shall observe local air traffic control regulations while in the country;

WHEREAS, at 8:08 in the morning of 26 June 2023, a Boeing C-17 strategic transport aircraft owned and/or operated by the United States military landed at the Manila International Airport;

WHEREAS, according to a source, the Manila International Airport Integrated Command and Control Center was not given any advisory on the arrival of aforesaid aircraft;

WHEREAS, upon verification with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines ("CAAP"), it was revealed that the Embassy of the United States of America issued an advisory to the Department of Foreign Affairs that an aircraft

registered to the United States military will enter and exit the territorial airspace of the Philippines in direct support of KAPIT BISIG activities and under diplomatic clearance number DSN-0659-KB-JUN-US-2023;

WHEREAS, according to CAAP, the subject aircraft has nine (9) military crew and (1) one passenger onboard, that the same departed from Guam, and that its destination is Puerto Princesa, Palawan. CAAP revealed that the alternate airport of the aircraft "for contingencies" en route to Manila was Clark International Airport;

WHEREAS, according to CAAP, the subject U.S. military aircraft departed Manila International Airport on the same day at 6:10 pm or ten hours after it landed thereat. The said aircraft arrived in Puerto Princesa at 7:08 pm;

WHEREAS, the foregoing events and circumstances raise several questions, including, but not limited to, the following:

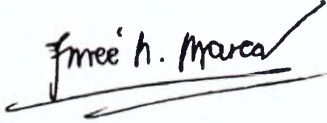
- a. Whether the Manila International Airport Integrated Command and Control Center was given a prior advisory on the arrival of the U.S. military aircraft;
- b. The reason why the U.S. military aircraft landed at the Manila International Airport even though its true destination was Puerto Princesa, Palawan, which also has an international airport;
- c. The reason why the said aircraft stayed at the Manila International Airport for ten (10) hours before departing for Palawan;
- d. The cargo which the aforesaid military aircraft carried and whether part of such cargo was offloaded in any place other than in Puerto Princesa, Palawan;
- e. The real number, as well as the identities, of those onboard the military aircraft when it left Guam and whether any of the crew or passenger thereof has a destination other than Puerto Princesa;
- f. Whether the said military aircraft made any landings other than those in Manila and Puerto Princesa; and

g. Why there was an apparent lack of coordination between the CAAP, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Department National Defense on the matter;

WHEREAS, in light of the recently revealed U.S. request for the Philippines to temporarily house Afghan Special Immigrant Visa applicants, the continued escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region, and the re-emergence of internal security threats, it is crucial for the State to carefully scrutinize the activities of foreign militaries in the country, particularly those which appear questionable or which are shrouded in secrecy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, that the appropriate Senate Committee be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into landing at the Manila International Airport of a U.S. military aircraft.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS