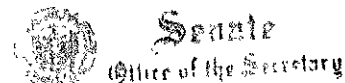


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE
P.S.R No. 323

RECEIVED BY: *WJ*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RESULTS OF A 2013 SURVEY SPONSORED BY A TRAVEL BLOG, PARTICIPATED BY TOURISTS WHO VISITED THE COUNTRY, RATING TERMINAL 1 OF THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE “WORST AIRPORT IN THE WORLD”

WHEREAS, various news agencies reported that travel blog “The Guide to Sleeping in Airports” (www.sleepingairports.net) considers the 30-year old Terminal 1 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA 1) as the “worst airport in the world”, the same notoriety it earned in 2011;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the distinction was based entirely on user votes in polls and surveys online voting for this year’s ten worst airports based on comfort and availability of seats for travelers experiencing delays of layovers, poor signage, availability of food and transportation services, and the quality of staff services from September 2012 to August 2013;

WHEREAS, it was reported that NAIA 1 is the only Southeast Asian airport on this year’s worst airports list, it is joined by the Bergamo airport in Italy, the Calcutta airport in India, the Islamabad airport in Pakistan, the Paris Beauvais airport in France, the Chennai airport in India, the Frankfurt-Hahn airport in Germany, the Mumbai airport in India, the Fiucimino-Leonardo da Vinci airport in Rome, Italy, and LAX in Los Angeles, California;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), which runs the airports, begged off comment, and said that all issues raised by travelers—including “stinky toilets,” in particular—had been addressed;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the NAIA 1 terminal manager, Dante Basanta, said the implementation of the terminal’s one-year rehabilitation plan worth P2.5-billion announced by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) would begin on December 2013, which includes structural retrofitting and architectural upgrading of the terminal;

WHEREAS, some of the reported complaints by travelers around the world who answered the online survey about the NAIA 1 are the following:

- the terminal exceeds its capacity by hosting 8 million travelers in 2012 despite being built for 6 million annual passengers after its expansion in the 1990s;
- inefficient airport staff and procedures;
- excessive airport fees or charges and overcharging airport taxis;
- allegations of corrupt airport officials;

WHEREAS, according to the data from the Department of Tourism, visitor arrivals for the month of August continued to yield optimistic results as it grew by 11.28% from 2,858,348 last year to 3,180,903 this year, which represents 57.83% of the targeted arrivals for 2013, and marks the first time visitor arrivals achieved the three million figure in August;

WHEREAS, MIAA officials reportedly said that the agency had been making efforts to refurbish the old terminal, which includes fixing or replacing toilet facilities and implementing improvements in passenger areas even before 2011 when the NAIA 1 was rated the worst airport in the travel blog for the first time;

WHEREAS; the government should prioritize improving the country's airports because, as the windows of the country, they represent the world-renowned Filipino hospitality and provide a glimpse of the country for tourists;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the results of a 2013 survey of a travel blog, participated in by tourists who visited the country, rating Terminal 1 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport as the "Worst Airport in the World."

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/RJD