


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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. **786**

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT SEVEN CLARK AIRPORT WORKERS  
WERE FIRED FOR POCKETING "DISCOUNTED" TRAVEL TAX

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, it was reported by Inquirer.net on 9 July 2014 that seven people, including three from the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza), had been dismissed from their jobs for collecting and pocketing a "discounted travel tax" of P1,200 from overseas-bound passengers at the Clark International Airport (CRK);

WHEREAS, according to a statement by Victor Jose Luciano, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC), it was not known how much money the government has lost daily or monthly from the said illegal activity since the scam has allegedly been going on for some time;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the travel tax that Tieza was authorized to collect from Filipinos traveling abroad amounts to ₱1,620;

WHEREAS, Luciano reportedly added that the cohorts of the Tieza personnel were three employees of a ground handling company and an employee of a janitorial service provider, both based at Clark International Airport (CRK); it was also reported that two other men are being investigated for alleged involvement in the scheme;

WHEREAS, Luciano claimed that the scam surfaced after three passengers of Cebu Pacific in April informed CIAC officials about the discounted travel tax offered to them; it was said that an investigation by the Philippine National Police's Aviation Security Group confirmed the existence of the racket;


WHEREAS, to prevent corruption, travel tax may be incorporated in the purchase of plane tickets like what's been done with the terminal fee; however, those exempted from paying travel tax should not be charged;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Department of Tourism (DOT), Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) and the Philippine National Police's Aviation Security Group to determine the culpability of the said accused and if there are other officials/personnel involved;

WHEREAS, the government should implement a better method of collecting travel taxes that will make it difficult, if not impossible, for corrupt government agents to pocket the money for themselves;

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 report that seven Clark Airport workers were fired for pocketing "discounted" travel tax.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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