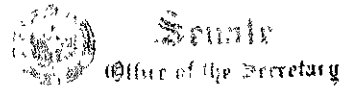



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Third Regular Session }



15 NOV -3 P3:08

SENATE
P.S.Resolution No. 1645

APPROVED BY: 

Introduced By Senator Juan Ponce Enrile

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED MODUS OPERANDI KNOWN AS THE “LAGLAG BALA” OR “TANIM BALA”, ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY SOME DOTC-OTS SCREENING OFFICERS AT THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA)

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution under Art. II, Sec. 27 provides that “(t)he State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption” and under Art. XI, Sec. 1 provides that “x x x Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, x x x”

WHEREAS, it is the Department of Transportation and Communications’ (DOTC) task to formulate policies, regulate the industry and its services among others. It is the department’s mission to provide the country with efficient, effective, and secure transportation systems that are globally competitive, compliant with international standards.

WHEREAS, in 2004, EO 277 created the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) in the DOTC. Under EO 311, the OTS was designated as the single authority responsible for the security of the transportation systems of the country.

WHEREAS, the OTS exercises operational control and supervision over all units of law enforcement agencies and agency personnel providing security services in the transportation systems, except for motor vehicles in land transportation, jointly with the heads of bureaus or agencies to which the units or personnel organically belong or are assigned.

WHEREAS, the OTS exercises responsibility for transportation security operations including, but not limited to, security screening of passengers, baggage and cargoes, and hiring, retention, training and testing of security screening personnel.

WHEREAS, several news reports allege that there has been a rise in cases of passengers being apprehended in violation of RA 10591, otherwise known as the

Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, which was signed into law in 2013.

WHEREAS, in the past few months, it has been reported that several Filipino passengers, including foreign nationals, have been found to be carrying live bullet/s in their luggage after being searched upon suspicion of the screening personnel.

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the scheme involves planting a bullet inside a passenger's luggage, and ultimately, extort money from the passenger/victim, who would likely end up paying the scammers in order to avoid being charged of a violation and the hassle of missing their flight.

WHEREAS, in the latest incident reported on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, a 65 year old Filipino woman bound for Singapore, traveling with her daughter, to watch the football competition wherein her grandson was competing in, was apprehended after airport screeners at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 found a live .9mm bullet inside her shoulder bag Sunday morning.

WHEREAS, the daughter of the 65 year old woman stated that the shoulder bag was sealed by a combination lock but its outer pocket was only closed with a zipper. However, other news accounts report that the shoulder bag was completely sealed with a combination lock and the outer pocket was stitched together.

WHEREAS, the 65 year old woman and her daughter vehemently denied that they owned the bullet that was found in the handbag and that they do not know how it got there. They insisted that they do not own a firearm nor any bullets.

WHEREAS, this scandal definitely has a significant impact on our country's tourism, as it discourages both local and foreign travelers to pass through our airports and to travel to and within the country.

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act and/or any other pertinent laws applicable to these incidents must be reviewed in order to plug any loopholes that unscrupulous people might be taking advantage of.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged extortion activities known as the "laglag bala" or "tanim bala" scheme, allegedly being perpetrated by some DOTC-OTS personnel at the NAIA.

ADOPTED,


JUAN PONCE ENRILE