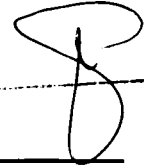


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

24 MAR -5 A8 :24

SENATE
PS. Res. No. 950

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by **Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTED
ABANDONMENT OF BALIKBAYAN BOXES SENT BY OVERSEAS FILIPINO
WORKERS TO THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, the balikbayan box has long been recognized as a sacrosanct aspect of our economy and culture, symbolizing the love and heroism of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in braving the challenges of working abroad to provide for their families;

WHEREAS, for decades, the balikbayan box has played a crucial role in our society, serving as a means for OFWs to share the foreign culture they have experienced while expressing their affection and care to their families here in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, recent reports have surfaced regarding the abandonment of balikbayan boxes by certain companies entrusted with their delivery to the families of OFWs, thereby causing distress and disappointment among our OFW community;

WHEREAS, Section 602 of Republic Act No. 1937, otherwise known as the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, mandates the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to assess and collect lawful revenues, prevent and suppress smuggling and other frauds, and supervise and control the entrance and clearance of vessels and aircraft engaged in foreign commerce, among others;

WHEREAS, on 25 January 2024, the BOC reported that sixteen companies who were contracted by Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to ship balikbayan boxes to their families allegedly abandoned the said packages, leaving the families waiting for the goods that would not be delivered¹;

WHEREAS, in 2023 alone, the BOC filed a total of eleven cases against ten companies for their failure to deliver balikbayan boxes. Within these warehouses, there were hundreds of balikbayan boxes languishing in the warehouses for seven months up to two years²;

WHEREAS, the reported abandonment of balikbayan boxes not only undermines the sacrifices of our OFWs but also poses a threat to the well-being of their families, who eagerly anticipate the arrival of these boxes as a connection to their loved ones abroad;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to identify the companies responsible for abandoning their duty of delivering these boxes to the families here in the Philippines, hold them accountable, and impose necessary sanctions to prevent further damage to the OFW community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines, through the appropriate committee, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the reported abandonment of balikbayan boxes sent by OFWs to their families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate endeavor to determine the causes and extent of the reported abandonment of balikbayan boxes, identify the companies

¹ Ong, G. (2024, January 25). Customs lists firms allegedly abandoning balikbayan boxes. <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/01/26/2328540/customs-lists-firms-allegedly-abandoning-balikbayan-boxes>

² GMA Intefrated News. (2023, October 26). Balikbayan boxes finally released after months; at least 1 claimant has since died. *GMA News Online*. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/886469/balikbayan-boxes-finally-released-after-months-at-least-1-claimant-has-since-died/story/>

involved, and recommend measures to address and prevent such incidents in the future;

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

