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SENATE

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Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND TRADE & COMMERCE TO INQUIRE, LOOK INTO AND INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION THE DOWNGRADING OF THE PHILIPPINES RATING FROM CATEGORY 1 TO CATEGORY 2 IN THE LATEST FLIGHT STANDARD SERVICE - INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) BY THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA), IMPLYING THE INSUFFICIENCY AND NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTICULARLY THE AIR TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (ATO) TO ENFORCE PROPER AVIATION SAFETY MEASURES AND STANDARDS SET BY ICAO, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING IF THERE IS LAXITY ON THE PART OF ATO TO IMPLEMENT SUCH STANDARDS AS WELL AS THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT DOWNGRADE TO THE TRADE AND COMMERCE AND OVERALL OUTLOOK OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE

WHEREAS, the International Civil Aviation Organization, composed of 190 contracting states all over the world including the Philippines, sets the international compliance standards on safety and other concerns affecting the *International Civil Aviation*;

WHEREAS, in the Flight Standards Service-International Aviation Safety Assessment released last January 8, 2008, the United States Federal Aviation Administration downgraded the *Philippines rating from category 1 to category 2* for non-compliance to the internationally accepted aviation safety standards set by ICAO thus, declaring the point of origin unsafe;

WHEREAS, no less than ATO officer-in-charge Danilo Dimagiba categorically stated that the downgrading was made because the ATO has no sufficient qualified personnel and equipment and that their 1952 regulations law is outdated to respond to the trend of modern aviation;

WHEREAS, it has been alleged that inspite that the FAA has long been issuing warnings to ATO since the leadership of its former chief Nilo Jatico that the country is in the midst of a rating downgrade if no transformation will be made, no amount of reform was introduced during the former ATO administration;

WHEREAS, accordingly, the FAA said that the implication of category 2 downgrade is that "expansion or changes in services to the United States by such carriers are not permitted while in category 2, although new services will be permitted if operated using aircraft wet-leased from a duly authorized and properly supervised US carrier or a foreign air carrier from a category 1 country that is authorized to serve the United States using its own aircraft";

WHEREAS, it is very important to establish the direct impact of such downgrade rating not only in the international air transport and tourism industry but also in the over-all business activity of the country influenced and governed by international trade;

WHEREAS, measures to totally eradicate or at least alleviate the bleak situation in the aviation sector should be immediately acted upon by the ATO and other concerned government agencies so the country can jump back to category 1 status and regain its reputation in the international aviation as amongst the world's safest in terms of airworthiness;

WHEREAS, there might be a need for Congress to prioritize pending legislations relating to the improvement of the country's aviation safety and standards such as measures creating the Civil Aviation Authority and Comprehensive Transport Security Program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committees on Public Services and Trade & Commerce to inquire, look into and investigate in aid of legislation the downgrading of the Philippines rating from category 1 to category 2 in the latest Flight Standard Service - International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) by the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), implying the insufficiency and non-compliance of the government particularly the Air Transportation Office (ATO) to enforce proper aviation safety measures and standards set by ICAO, with the end in view of *determining* if there is laxity on the part of ATO to implement such standards as well as the adverse effects of the recent downgrade to the trade and commerce and overall outlook of the country as a whole

Adopted,



GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Senator