

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

8 JAN 17 2008

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 273

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO IDENTIFY THE ADVERSE
CONSEQUENCES ON OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY OF THE DOWNGRADE EFFECTED
BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN GIVING THE COUNTRY A
CATEGORY 2 RATING PERTAINING TO ITS NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE
STANDARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION AND TO
INSTALL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 9 of the Constitution provides that the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;

WHEREAS, tourism is the fastest and most efficient way of generating foreign exchange, investments and employment to ensure that the ideals enunciated in the Constitution become a reality;

WHEREAS, tourism is an engine of growth that can empower our economy to alleviate the poverty of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, the tourism industry depends primarily on the arrival of foreign tourists who come in to the country through various air carriers;

WHEREAS, these foreign tourists, in turn, depend on the reliability of the country's civil aviation industry;

WHEREAS, their trust and confidence are rooted on the assurance that our government can ensure their safety, not only within our country, but on board our own air carriers and within the premises of our airports;

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration came out with a report on 8 January 2008, downgrading our country from Category 1 and giving it a rating of Category 2 with respect to its compliance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization;

WHEREAS, as defined by the International Aviation Safety Assessments Program, a rating of Category 1 means that a certain country complies with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with respect to its civil aviation authority's licensing and oversight of air carriers. On the other hand, Category 2 means that the country does not comply with these standards and that the civil aviation authority does not provide safety oversight of its air carriers in accordance with the minimum requirements of the ICAO;

WHEREAS, a Category 2 rating is a reflection of our supposed incapability to ensure the safety of the flying public, and because we are considered as not having complied with the minimum international standards, the level of trust and confidence of the public will necessarily diminish;


WHEREAS, if not addressed, this aviation downgrade would eventually reverse the gains which the tourism industry has been painstakingly working for;

WHEREAS, the number of tourist arrivals has already breached the three million mark and has infused US\$ 4.8 billion into our economy in 2007 alone, leading to a growth of 8.7%;

WHEREAS, if the consequences of this aviation downgrade are not identified and addressed at the soonest possible opportunity, all this will be for naught. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Tourism to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, to identify the adverse consequences on our tourism industry of the downgrade effected by the Federal Aviation Administration in giving the country a Category 2 rating pertaining to its non-compliance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization and to install measures to address the same

Approved,



RICHARD J. GORDON