



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

'10 DEC -9 A11:30

SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 308

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF**  
**LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS AND CONDITION OF AIRPORTS IN THE**  
**PHILIPPINES, BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC, WITH THE END IN VIEW**  
**OF PROMOTING PHILIPPINE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Whereas*, Section 1 paragraph 1 of Article XII of the 1987 Constitution states that:

“The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged”;

*Whereas*, the net income of the tourism industry in the Philippines totaled to \$2.1 billion at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and is one of the major contributors to economic development in the country<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, in 2000, the Philippines' tourist arrivals totaled to 2.2 million while in 2003 it totaled to 2,838,000 posting a growth of almost 29%<sup>2</sup>;

*Whereas*, in the first quarter of 2007, the tourist arrival in the Philippines grew as much as 20% in same period last year while in the period of January to September 2009 alone, the government recorded 5.2 million tourists visiting the country<sup>3</sup>;

*Whereas*, the contribution of Travel & Tourism to Gross Domestic Product is expected to rise from 6.9% (PHP580.1bn or US\$12.0bn) in 2010 to 7.9% (PHP1,686.4bn or US\$28.0bn) by 2020<sup>4</sup>;

*Whereas*, airports give travelers their initial glimpse of a country and may be the only chance to give these tourists their first and only impression of a particular destination;

*Whereas*, in 2010, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) ranked 5<sup>th</sup> among the world's worst airports citing as reasons outdated and unclean facilities, lack of ample seats and other amenities to accommodate waiting passengers and corrupt and unfriendly airport staff<sup>5</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> <http://ezinearticles.com/?The-Improvement-of-Philippine-Tourism-and-Its-Economy&id=5364827>

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism\\_in\\_the\\_Philippines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism_in_the_Philippines)

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.wttc.org/eng/Tourism\\_Research/Economic\\_Research/Country\\_Reports/Philippines/](http://www.wttc.org/eng/Tourism_Research/Economic_Research/Country_Reports/Philippines/)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sleepinginairports.net/worst-airports.htm>

*Whereas*, compounding the inadequacy of facilities at the NAIA is the feud between airport Customs personnel and foreign carriers belonging to the Airline Operators Council (AOC);

*Whereas*, the AOC is complaining about a Philippine tax slapped only on foreign carriers based on gross receipts, which means long-haul flights with their costlier tickets are charged higher;

*Whereas*, the tax has left only one European carrier, KLM, still flying directly to Manila, and it is studying whether it should also pull out like the rest<sup>6</sup>;

*Whereas*, the carriers are complaining about being made to shoulder overtime pay for Customs personnel who work beyond 5 p.m. because the same should be shouldered by the government which is the practice in other countries;


*Whereas*, several months ago, the carriers stopped paying for overtime to these Customs personnel and in retaliation, the latter reduced their staff and generally slowed down work which affected not just airline operations but also passengers particularly during the holiday rush<sup>7</sup>;

*Whereas*, the State, consistent with the national strategy for tourism, should formulate an integrated sustainable tourism management plan, and identify areas for tourism development including related tourism facilities and supporting infrastructure;

*Whereas*, development of infrastructure such as airports will greatly affect tourism in order to attain over-all economic growth through tourism;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the appropriate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status and condition of airports in the Philippines, both international and domestic, with the end in view of promoting Philippine tourism infrastructure.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator

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<sup>6</sup> Editorial – Philippine Star, December 7, 2010

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*