



'16 AUG 24 P6:18

SENATE  
P. S. Res No. 111

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS**  
**AND INVESTIGATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,**  
**ON THE ALLEGED P200-MILLION RACKET INVOLVING THE FRAUDULENT**  
**PROCESSING OF PHILIPPINE HAJJ PASSPORTS ISSUED TO NON-FILIPINO**  
**MUSLIMS**

**WHEREAS**, according to news reports, last August 19, 2016, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) arrested 117 Indonesian nationals who attempted to leave the country disguised as Filipinos joining the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that all of the Indonesians were found in possession of fraudulently obtained genuine Philippine passports allegedly provided by their Filipino escorts who organized the pilgrimage<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to reports, the Indonesians were given Philippine passports to enable them to join the Hajj pilgrimage, using the quota reserved for Filipino pilgrims by the Saudi government, as there were no more available Hajj slots for Indonesians<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that this elaborate scheme costs each Indonesian from \$6,000 to \$10,000 each and thus may involve the greasing of hands inside relevant agencies with jurisdiction over the Hajj travelers;

**WHEREAS**, in an article published in Journal online last August 14, 2016, concerned employees of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) said that fraudulent pilgrimage passport processing has been going on for a long time. Hajj passports are being issued to Indonesian, Malaysian and other Asian nationals in exchange for P25,000 each, depriving Filipino Muslims the opportunity to be part of the annual pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia<sup>4</sup>;

<sup>1</sup>Interaksyon.com, Indonesian pilgrims using Philippine passport held by immigration at NAIA, <http://interaksyon.com/article/131585/indonesian-pilgrims-using-philippine-passport-held-by-immigration-at-naia>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Journal Online, P200-M passport scam bared, <http://www.journal.com.ph/news/nation/p200-m-passport-scam-bared>

**WHEREAS**, according to the employees, the Hajj personnel broker the passports to would-be foreign applicants for P25,000. The passport applicants are then endorsed by the NCMF to the consular office of the DFA as Filipino-Muslim pilgrims. The passports are then released to the NCMF for distribution to would-be pilgrims<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it was alleged that with the hefty P25,000 per Hajj passport, the processing scam would amount to about P200 million<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, it was reported that the BI uncovered the racket of a Mindanao-based syndicate providing foreigners with Philippine passports after intercepting 22 Indonesians in Tawi-Tawi who claimed they wanted to acquire Philippine passports from the syndicate so they could avail of the quota for the Mecca pilgrimage allotted to the Philippines by the Saudi government<sup>7</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the fraudulent processing and issuance of Hajj passports to non-Filipinos is a matter of public interest as it undermines our country's sovereignty and national security as well as the religious freedom of Filipino Muslims to participate in Hajj pilgrimage. Therefore, it is imperative for the Senate to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alleged involvement of government officials and employees in this corrupt practice;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** to direct the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged P200-Million racket involving the fraudulent processing of Philippine Hajj passports issued to non-Filipino Muslims.

Adopted,



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**

---

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> GMA news online, BI going after racketeers who send foreigners to Mecca using Pinoys' passports, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/318277/news/pinoyabroad/bi-going-after-racketeers-who-send-foreigners-to-mecca-using-pinoys-passports>.