



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

'17 JAN 23 P3:16

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE  
P.S. Res 277

---

Introduced by Senator Poe

---

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PLANS AND PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR) TO RATIONALIZE FLIGHTS AT THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA) IN ORDER TO DECONGEST AIR TRAFFIC AT THE RUNWAYS AND SPEED UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER AIRPORTS AS ALTERNATIVES TO NAIA**

**WHEREAS**, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) has been notoriously known as world's worst airport, not just due to its facilities but more so due to flight delays and air traffic congestion;

**WHEREAS**, in President Rodrigo Duterte's State of the Nation Address last July 25, 2016, he said that his administration is considering the transfer of all general aviation (GA) activities from NAIA to Sangley Point in Cavite;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, according to the Department of Transportation (DOTr), freeing up NAIA of GA activities would result in 18 to 22 percent additional aviation space;

**WHEREAS**, the president also said that he wants to move some commercial flights, particularly domestic operations, to Clark International Airport which shall be connected to a railway line;

**WHEREAS**, in rolling out its four-point program to decongest NAIA, DOTr Undersecretary Robert Lim in an interview said that they will first, transfer GA services to

---

<sup>1</sup> Chrisee Dela Paz, "SONA 2016: Duterte eyes Sangley Point to help decongest NAIA", Rappler.com, 25 July 2016, <http://www.rappler.com/business/industries/aviation-tourism/140891-duterte-sona-2016-philippines-sangley-point>. Accessed 16 January 2016.

Sangley Point in stages and limit their flight; and second, talk to big commercial carriers to transfer some of their flights to Clark International Airport;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, part of its four-point agenda is also to have the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) allow the sequencing of flights in order for air-traffic controllers to simultaneously allow take-off on runway 06-24 and take-off on runway 31; currently, NAIA has a main runway 06-24 and a secondary runway 13-31; both cannot be used simultaneously if an aircraft is taking off on 06-24 and another one is to take off on 13-31;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the fourth option Lim revealed involves a runway optimization study being completed by the British Company National Air Transport Society (NATS);

**WHEREAS**, in fulfilment of the first point, the CAAP, MIAA, and the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) issued Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2016-02 on July 28 restricting general aviation operations and aeriels works in NAIA;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the JMC imposes on GA operations (a) total prohibition against the use of NAIA runways by GA planes form 12 noon to 7 p.m., daily; (b) the limitation of two GA flights to two take-offs and two landings per hour, from 6 a.m. to 12 n.n., daily, on a first-come-first-served basis;<sup>5 6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Federation of Aviation Organizations of the Philippines (FEDAVOR), an organization of GA operators, claims that it has no objection to the transfer of their operations to Sangley Point provided that before such transfer, the airport has the facilities for their operations;<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, FEDAVOR claims, however, that based on official records of the CAAP – Air Traffic Services, GA flights using the NAIA runway account for a mere one percent of the Total Daily Flights at NAIA during the regular season; thus, their flights have little or no effect on air traffic congestion in NAIA;

**WHEREAS**, FEDAVOR, although they are in favour of decongesting NAIA, laments that the strict restrictions under the JMC has been debilitating and causing undue economic restraint on their business, and on other businesses that rely on them for

---

<sup>2</sup> Recto Mercene, "DOT prepares four-point program to decongest NAIA," *Business Mirror*, 2 August 2016, <http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/dot-prepares-four-point-program-to-decongest-naia/>. Accessed 18 January 2016.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> "General aviation restricted during peak hours", *The Manila Times*, 7 August 2016, <http://www.manilatimes.net/general-aviation-restricted-during-peak-hours/278479/> Accessed 16 January 2016.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> "General aviation ops at NAIA restricted", *The Tribune*, 8 August 2016, <http://www.tribune.net.ph/metro/general-aviation-ops-at-naia-restricted>. Accessed 16 January 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Letter of FEDAVOR to DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade, copy furnished Sen. Grace Poe, Chair of the Committee on Public Services. Received 21 November 2016.



transportation, such as small- to medium-scale fisherfolk who use GA services to transport their catch;

**WHEREAS**, the government, therefore, should ensure that projects and programs implemented by the concerned government agencies will not cause undue restraint on businesses that aid the development of the economy, especially those businesses that are not serviced by commercial airlines;

**WHEREAS**, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Deputy Director General Manuel Antonio L. Tamayo reportedly said, however, that it has set aside Php 50 million to improve the runway at Sangely Point, Cavite, to speed up the transfer of turbo prop-type airplanes belonging to the general aviation sector;<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Tamayo also claimed that the DOTr has contributed Php 700 million to upgrade the facilities in Sangley and expect completion of the airport's upgrade next year;

**WHEREAS**, Tamayo also reported that passengers can expect an ease in air traffic in the NAIA since the much-delayed communication navigation system (CNS) and its adjunct project, the air-traffic management (ATM), which will be used to monitor, and thus speed up, the landing and take-off of flights, are expected to be in place by early 2017;

**WHEREAS**, to institutionalize air traffic decongestion projects in NAIA, and to ensure that other airports do not suffer the same fate as the latter, the legislature should craft measures capacitating and supporting the government agencies concerned;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the progress of the plans and programs of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to rationalize flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in order to decongest air traffic at the runways and speed up the development of other airports as alternatives to NAIA.

*Adopted,*

  
GRACE POE

---

<sup>8</sup> Recto Mercene, "NAIA air-traffic congestion seen easing by Q1 2017," *Business Mirror*, 28 November 2016, <http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/naia-air-traffic-congestion-seen-easing-by-q1-2017/>. Accessed 18 January 2017.