

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
19th CONGRESS



House Resolution No. 671

**A RESOLUTION  
URGING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION  
REGARDING THE ALLEGED POWER OUTAGE AND SYSTEM GLITCH  
AT THE NAIA AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER ON 1 JANUARY 2023**

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Introduced by Rep. BERNADETTE R. HERRERA

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**WHEREAS**, Modernized Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) System or Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems across the country were first conceptualized in the late 1990s.

**WHEREAS**, development of these systems began in 2010 as part of a project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

**WHEREAS**, NAIA has previously been the subject of numerous criticisms because of overcrowding, extortion scam reports dubbed by the local media the "tanim-bala scam", and inefficient services among others, with plans to rehabilitate the same being set back numerous times towards the end of the 2010s.

**WHEREAS**, the Air Traffic Management Center (ATMC), equipped with the new CNS/ATM systems, was inaugurated on January 16, 2018, and its operations began on July 26, 2019.

**WHEREAS**, the system cost around PhP13 billion, which required the Philippines to obtain a PhP 10.8 billion loan from JICA.

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines' largest airport, the four-terminal Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), is managed by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), a state-owned corporation under the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), which is also under the Department of Transportation is mandated to conduct air traffic control for civilian flights to and from airports in the Philippines, and it likewise manages the Air Traffic Management Center (ATMC) at the NAIA, which operates air traffic control facilities for the Philippine airspace.

**WHEREAS**, a power outage at NAIA had previously occurred in September 2022, affecting 30 flights. Thus, in preparation for the holiday season, the CAAP had prepared 42 commercial airports in the country anticipating a surge in passenger air travel.

**WHEREAS**, on December 30, 2022, the government announced a plan to privatize the airport with an aim towards its modernization and rehabilitation.

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2023, the CAAP began experiencing power issues within their ATMC. International flights towards airports in the Philippines began diverting to nearby airports outside of the Philippines. Accordingly, Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs)

were issued thereafter, wherein it was reported that Manila radio frequencies and radars were unserviceable, forcing CAAP to ground all aircraft in order to avoid aircraft incidents.

**WHEREAS**, the ATMC's power issues had greatly affected air traffic control for the entire country, so much so that by noon, there were no commercial flights in the air within the Philippines' flight information region.

**WHEREAS**, with the substantial budget allotted to the DOTr, a simple cooling fan for one of the ATMC's uninterruptible power supplies had failed and a backup power supply did not automatically start. Consequently, technicians attempted to bypass the two UPS systems but caused an overvoltage that damaged one of the center's two very-small-aperture terminals (VSAT).

**WHEREAS**, service to NAIA was partially restored at 4:00 pm on the same day after the CAAP began using radar in Tagaytay, which allowed limited operations. Thereafter, the ATMC was once again fully operational at 7:45 pm after resolving power and equipment issues.

**WHEREAS**, around 282 flights to or from NAIA were affected, and 268 of which were cancelled. Seven flights were diverted to other airports, while another seven were delayed. All in all, over 56,000 passengers scheduled to arrive or depart NAIA were affected.

**WHEREAS**, in Davao City, around 2,600 passengers at the Francisco Bangoy International Airport were affected by the technical issue. Around 15 flights at the airport were cancelled, with two diverted and two delayed. On the other hand, flights were also cancelled at the Puerto Princesa International Airport and Zamboanga International Airport, where 1,378 passengers were stranded. Thus, over 65,000 passengers and in total were stranded in airports across the country.

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Migrant Workers estimated that around 3,000 overseas Filipino workers were impacted by the airspace outage.

**WHEREAS**, after the incident, a joint probe conducted by the MIAA and Meralco identified the power substation of NAIA's Terminal 3 as the cause of the power issues. Some equipment needed replacement after sustaining damage from overvoltage.

**WHEREAS**, of 2018, the Philippines had 13 radars in place. Alongside satellite-based communications, navigation and surveillance systems for air traffic management, the former Duterte administration's transport department said this meant this covered the country's entire airspace. Nonetheless, the CAAP reported after the incident that its equipment was outdated, and that a modernized air traffic management system was already proposed to the national government prior to the incident.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, URGING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED POWER OUTAGE AND SYSTEM GLITCH AT THE NAIA AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER ON 1 JANUARY 2023, WHICH AFFECTED THOUSANDS OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS.**

*Adopted,*

  
**BERNADETTE "BH" HERRERA**