



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CONTINUED FLIGHTS FROM
CHINA AND ITS SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS, IN VIOLATION OF
THE TRAVEL BAN AND PUTTING FILIPINOS AT RISK

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "*in its relations with other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination*" and that "*the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people*" (Article II, Section 15)";

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2020, declared a global health emergency and an outbreak of the novel coronavirus (nCoV), later on named as Corona virus 2019 (Covid-19), which was first reported in Wuhan, China on 31 December 2019;

WHEREAS, on 02 February 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte imposed a travel ban for foreign nationals coming directly from other parts of China, Taiwan, Macau, and Hong Kong in order to prevent the spread of the virus, in addition, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla said, "*The travel-ban directive of the President of February 2, 2020 is a ban on travel to the Philippines of any persons directly coming from China, Hong Kong and Macau as well as those not directly arriving from China, Hong Kong and Macau but have been to these territories within 14 days immediately preceding their arrival in the Philippines*";

WHEREAS, airports in Manila, Cebu, Clark, Davao, and Kalibo cater at least 15 direct flights from the cities of Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Nanning, and Wuxi while two airlines, Pan Pacific and Royal Air Philippines, offer direct flights from Wuhan to Kalibo and allegedly, these airports do not state that flights from such airlines (*ie.* Royal Air) were "*Canceled*," as reflected on other airlines, instead, most were marked as: "*Unknown*," "*Scheduled*," or "*Scheduled-Delayed*," even if web-based flight trackers recorded landings at the airports with corresponding departure, arrival, and delay times;

WHEREAS, in violation of the travel restrictions, numerous flights from China have been confirmed by airport logs and airline manifests wherein several netizens even insisted that a flight from Wuhan landed at Kalibo Airport early morning of 06 February 2020;

WHEREAS, the Clark International Airport website refer to and is directly linked with flight trackers such as "Flighstats", however, both have conflicting data on plane arrivals from China thus, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) should investigate and explain such discrepancies;

WHEREAS, acting Chief of CAAP at Kalibo Airport, Engr. Eusebio Monserate Jr., denied the allegation by stating, "It's not true. We have too many fake news coming out";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, urging the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the continued flights from China and its special administrative regions, in violation of the travel ban and putting Filipinos at risk.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS