

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1447**

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**Introduced by Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento**

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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE – HIGHWAY PATROL GROUP, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AGAINST CONGESTION AND ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE PORT OF MATNOG AND OTHER LOCAL PORTS, AND MAKE IMMEDIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION FOR SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PLANS ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES**

*WHEREAS*, numerous complaints were submitted to the Committee on Transportation alleging that the local ports in our country, especially the Port of Matnog, are congested and that due to this, incidences of corruption occurs;

*WHEREAS*, corruption occurs because middlemen take advantage of the port congestion and absence of a queueing system to demand grease money from passengers in return for being able to board the vessel first;

*WHEREAS*, congestion worsens during the holidays and after the occurrence of typhoons when sea travel is suspended. The queues of stranded vehicles and passengers during typhoons can reach up to 5 kilometers outside the ports;

**WHEREAS**, additional illicit charges imposed upon the transportation companies or truckers for transportation of goods are eventually passed on to consumers driving prices of goods up ;

**WHEREAS**, the Committee on Transportation previously held a meeting last January 29, 2020 regarding this matter and recommended the PPA, MARINA, and DILG to immediately address these allegations;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to take urgent action to provide a solution to the long-standing problem of port congestion and corruption through the joint effort of various government agencies;

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended that the Philippine Ports Authority and Maritime Industry Authority should immediately come up with a queueing system, preferably an automated one, which will ensure that a “first come, first served” system will be followed. In addition to this, it must be ensured that passengers and vehicles will be mandated to depart straight away upon arrival in the port. A good queueing system will remove the need for middlemen and grease money;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine National Police – Highway Patrol Group and the Department of the Interior and Local Government should resolve the allegations of corruption and presence of middlemen through apprehension of individuals who are caught collecting grease money or bribes, and ensuring that appropriate cases are filed;


**WHEREAS**, as a long-term solution, the Department of Transportation and the Philippine Ports Authority should formulate a port infrastructure development roadmap for the entire country which includes expansion of the existing ports and construction of new ports to prevent long queues along the highways outside the ports even after the occurrence of typhoons and port congestion due to a high volume of vehicles and passengers;

**WHEREAS**, this problem has been in existence for a very long time, It is high time that the necessary solutions will be implemented during this administration;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives to urge the Department of Transportation, Philippine Ports



Authority, Maritime Industry Authority, Philippine National Police – Highway Patrol Group, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government to take immediate actions against congestion and allegations of corruption in the Port of Matnog and all other local ports, and make immediate recommendations to the Committee on Transportation for short-term and long-term plans addressing these issues



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