

Manila's GA ban-plan may be softening - RPLL

Declan Selleck
25 January, 2017



RPLL/Manila is not moving as quickly towards a complete ban of non-scheduled and General Aviation traffic as feared. This is good news for International Operators.

Background: The airport is heavily congested, it's a big deal in the Philippines, and the President himself started the action to fix things.

The original plan was that February 2017 would see all GA traffic moved to other airports (aka RPLC/Clark or RPLB/Subic Bay). For international operators, neither of these are great alternatives. Clark can be a 3 hour drive to Manila, and Subic Bay is further again, with about a 4 hour drive.

However, the original threat of moving everything that isn't line traffic out of RPLL might have dissipated. The NAIA Airport Company has now introduced some hefty slot restrictions for GA:

- 2 GA movements from **0600-1200** local time
- No GA movements between **1200-1900**
- Slots will be assigned only 24 hours in advance for domestic flights
- Slots will be assigned maximum **15 days in advance for international flights**

The word on the ground (as of January 25th) from the local handling agents, is that the Airport Authority is evaluating whether this might be a sufficient restriction for GA. It seems that they don't want to exclude GA or non-scheduled flights entirely. We'll keep you posted.

TO : **ALL CONCERNED**
FROM : **Acting Chief, ATS**
Subject : **GenAv Operations Runway Capacity**

1. General Aviation operations and Aerial works shall be prohibited to use NAIA from 1200H to 1900H Local Time daily, except helicopter operations, medical evacuations and aircraft on emergency.
2. Moreover, General Aviation operations and Aerial works shall be limited to only two (2) cycles per hour from 0600H to 1200H Local Time daily.
3. Nevertheless, aircraft movements at NAIA shall not exceed the declared runway capacity.
4. To ensure compliance with the above the parameters, the following rules on General Aviation operations are laid down:
 - a. Flight Plans for Domestic operations may be filed in advance with the Manila FSS but the assignment of slot(s) shall only take place 24 hours before its PTD.
 - b. Flight Plans for International operations may be filed in advance with the Manila FSS but the assignment of slot(s) shall only take place 15 days before its PTD.
 - c. All Domestic and International General Aviation flights are covered under the slot allocation system of Manila FSS all the time of the day.

All Domestic and International General Aviation flights departing and arriving Manila shall, as a condition for the provision of ATC clearance, secure a slot from Manila FSS.

Runway Damage at Manila

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The main runway at RPLL/Manila, RWY 06/24, was closed on Monday 18JUL after heavy rain caused large chunks of asphalt to disintegrate. One of the last aircraft to land, shown below, suffered damage to an inboard flap section.

At least 10 flights diverted to Clark International Airport (RPLC/CRK), 50nm northwest of the city.

The runway was tentatively reopened on Tuesday, but consideration to future similar issues should be given, if further rain occurs.



