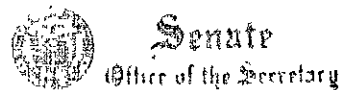


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'11 MAY 11 P2:15

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 465

RECEIVED BY:   *fr*  

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ABUSES COMMITTED BY  
TOWING FIRMS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, various complaints revealed that there has been a trend of abuse by towing companies, which involve harassment, extortion, and illegal towing;

WHEREAS, previous news reports alleged that towing vehicles would park inconspicuously at lucrative locations and seize vehicles that would halt momentarily in those areas even if they do not need towing;

WHEREAS, in one report, it was alleged that while a vehicle was negotiating the Katipunan flyover, the driver noticed that the cover of the pickup was loose and the driver stopped the vehicle to adjust the cover, but in three minutes, a towing truck appeared and stopped in front of the vehicle to tow the latter;

WHEREAS, the driver claimed that instead of releasing his vehicle, the towing firm demanded P300 for the gasoline they used for towing; the driver also claimed that there were other victims negotiating for the release of their vehicles, some laden with perishable cargo in exchange for thousands of pesos;

WHEREAS, reports alleged that towing firms seemingly become very active during weekends;

WHEREAS, in another report it was alleged that these towing firms would use brute language, threats, and force to quell complaining drivers and compel them to submit to the towing firms demands;

WHEREAS, these towing firms allegedly procure their license from the local government or the Metro Manila Development Authority;

WHEREAS, the towing business is a lucrative ground for extortion since it is prone to abuse without any guiding legislation; it is also a lucrative ground for the proliferation of graft and corruption in the agencies that approve the licenses of these towing firms;

WHEREAS, it is unforgivable that a helpless driver be made to suffer agony and shame, and undergo more hassle when his vehicle is towed without his asking or without exhausting all other means for his vehicle to restart;

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the legislature to create measures that protect stranded drivers;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that unconscionable towing firms be penalized for their abuses, and that government employees and agencies responsible for overlooking such abuses and for approving their licenses despite such abuses should not go unpunished;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the alleged abuses committed by towing firms.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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