

SENATE

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Introduced by Sen. Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF FLY-BY-NIGHT TOW TRUCKS AND TOWING COMPANIES WHICH PREY ON HAPLESS MOTORISTS, HARASS MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS AND CHARGE EXORBITANT FEES ON STALLED VEHICLES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF MOTOR VEHICLE OWNERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State to establish enabling laws, policies, rules and regulations that will ensure a safe, viable and dependable road safety system in the country in order to protect the welfare of the general public;

WHEREAS, the past few months have witnessed a surge of complaints filed against illegal tow trucks and towing companies proliferating on our major thoroughfares, secondary roads and city roads which harass motor vehicle owners of stalled vehicles and charge exorbitant rates higher than the fees prescribed by the Government;

WHEREAS, the business of towing vehicles has become the milking cow of many unscrupulous towing companies given the exorbitant towing fees being charged to drivers of stalled vehicles. On the average, drivers of light vehicles are allegedly charged Php1,200.00 for the services rendered by the tow truck but various complaints indicate that abusive towing personnel charge as much as Php2,000.00 or more;

WHEREAS, to date, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) rules and regulations require that only MMDA-accredited tow trucks are allowed to tow stalled vehicles in major thoroughfares and that even tow trucks accredited by local government units are still required to get their authorization from the MMDA. Towing service personnel are also required to log in and inform the agency when they tow stalled vehicles so the vehicles can be easily located;

WHEREAS, aside from securing accreditation from the MMDA, tow trucks are also required to report to the MMDA Traffic Metro Base the plate number, location and other identification of stalled vehicles before they can tow any vehicle and that towing companies are required to issue official receipts to drivers whose vehicles were towed and pay directly to banks to curb extortion activities;

WHEREAS, many of these tow trucks roaming in our major thoroughfares are not even accredited with the MMDA and their vehicles are likewise not registered with the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB);

WHEREAS, numerous complaints against these towing companies indicate that many towing agencies have not followed towing protocols and have instead harassed drivers of stalled vehicles;

WHEREAS, a number of motorists whose vehicles were towed complained that some towing operators would offer help and then clamp their vehicles immediately to tow trucks to be taken to impounding areas;

WHEREAS, given the increasing number of complaints against these erring towing companies, there is an urgent need to review the existing laws, regulations and policies being adopted by the Government in order to protect the vehicle owners from the abuses committed by these erring towing companies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, on the proliferation of fly-by-night tow trucks and towing companies which prey on hapless motorists, harass motor vehicle drivers and charge exorbitant fees on stalled vehicles, with the end in view of protecting the rights and welfare of motor vehicle owners and the general public.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 