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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1436

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE REPORT THAT THE NEW LICENSE PLATES ISSUED BY THE LAND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) HAVE FAILED THE FLOOD STRESS TEST

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a  
2 just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and  
3 free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full  
4 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

5 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 21 June 2015 reported that the new car plates issued  
6 by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) have recently failed the stress test of flashfloods;

7 WHEREAS, it was reported that the plates were supposed to be tamper-resistant with  
8 screws to ensure these are permanently attached to the vehicle;

9 WHEREAS, the new plates are two millimeters thicker than the old ones and made of  
10 aluminum substrate;

11 WHEREAS, car owners and motorists have allegedly turned to social media to express  
12 their grievances over the inferior quality of the car plates;

13 WHEREAS, on June 19, Top Gear Philippines, an online magazine, reported two  
14 incidents of damaged license plates caused by floodwaters;

15 WHEREAS, the report said that a car owner posted a photo of his bent license plate  
16 attached to his vehicle after he drove through only knee-deep flood waters, while another netizen  
17 reported that he found a new license plate on the street apparently loosened by flood waters;

18 WHEREAS, former Commission on Elections (Comelec) Commissioner Gregorio  
19 Larrazabal allegedly said in a TV interview that the paint on his new license plate easily chipped  
20 off despite hardly using the car, and that the security bolts provided by the LTO did not fit  
21 properly on his car, which forced him to use a different set of screws;

1           WHEREAS, in a forum in tsikot.com, people were allegedly fuming over the LTO's  
2 "money-making scheme" and criticizing them for their faulty screws;

3           WHEREAS, a netizen on the forum alleged that people pay up to ₱2,500 just to have the  
4 plates installed;

5           WHEREAS, despite complaints, it was reported that the LTO imposed a fine of ₱5,000 if  
6 the security bolts were not used to hold the new license plates;

7           WHEREAS, it was reported that the plates were procured for ₱3.8 billion by the  
8 Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC);

9           WHEREAS, the LTO is reportedly charging ₱450 and ₱120 for the license plates of  
10 motor vehicles and motorcycles, respectively;

11           WHEREAS, of the ₱450, LTO claimed that ₱380 goes to the manufacturer while the  
12 remaining ₱70 is for the DOTC's administration fee;

13           WHEREAS, the faulty license plates and unreliable security bolts do not justify the  
14 billions of pesos spent for their procurement and the price that the vehicle owners have to pay;

15           WHEREAS, it is imperative for the LTO and DOTC to provide car plates that can  
16 withstand flood and other usual road hazards, especially since the country is vulnerable to  
17 typhoons;

18           WHEREAS, the State should be held accountable in exercising more due diligence in  
19 selecting the manufacturers contracted by agencies;

20           WHEREAS, there is a need for the LTO and the DOTC to immediately address the  
21 complaints of vehicle owners on their new license plates;

22           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
23 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the  
24 new license plates issued by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) have failed flood stress test.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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