EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Third Regular Session

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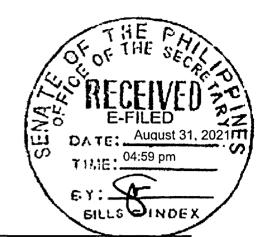
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. <u>884</u>

Introduced by SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (DOTR) DEFICIENT DISBURSEMENT OF ITS ALLOCATED AID FUNDS UNDER BAYANIHAN 2, AS WELL AS OTHER DELAYS AND DEFICIENCIES IN ITS PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF HOLDING OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR SAID DEFICIENCIES AND DELAYS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 27 of the Constitution provides that "the State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 28 of the same states that, "subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

WHEREAS, the 2020 Commission on Audit (COA) Report on the DOTr noted the following deficiencies, delays, and irregularities in DOTR project implementation:

- 1. Deficient disbursement of allocated funds under the Bayanihan 2 Act, to wit:1
 - a. Out of the P1.161 billion funds allocated, only P839.52 million was distributed to 129,157 PUV drivers while 49,097 PUV drivers have yet to receive their cash subsidies as of December 2020;²

¹ Aurelio, J. M. (15 August 2021). *DOTr also fails to fully use P 9.5-B aid funds*. Retrieved from https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1473727/dotr-also-fails-to-fully-use-p-9-5-b-aid-funds

- b. Delayed implementation of the service contracting program, resulting 1 in "only ₱59.72 million or 1 % of the total project cost of ₱5.58 billion 2 being obligated for the purpose", and where, "of this amount, only 3 P8.811 million, or 0.015 %, of the total project cost, was actually 4 disbursed as of the end of 2020";3 and 5
 - c. Out of the 60,000 projected beneficiaries "only 29,871 drivers or 49.79% were registered to the service contracting program, 16,410 driver-participants were oriented about the program and 8,865 drivers signed contracts".4
 - 2. Failure of the Land Transportation Office to deliver license plates despite funds from registrants,5 P2,159,036,340 amount of acquiring corresponding to 8,120,837 pieces of Motorcycle and 2,632,302 pairs of replacement Motor Vehicle license plates;6
 - 3. Failure of several regional offices of the LTO Disposal Committee to dispose 2,595 units of Impounded Motor Vehicle (IMV) despite the lapse of the six-month period from the date of apprehension, which prevented the agency from earning more revenues;7
 - 4. Delay in fifteen (15) DOTr Foreign Assisted Projects (FAPs) for 2020 with an aggregate cost of ₱1,312,605,770,000;8 and
 - 5. Misstatements in financial statements "due to unrecorded collections from online payment transactions and proceeds from the auction of impounded

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² Ibid.

³ Id.

⁵ CNN Philippines. (12 August 2021). COA flags DOTr for ₱2.1-B undelivered license plates. Retrieved from: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/8/12/coa-dotr-license-plates.html

⁶ Commission on Audit. Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Transportation for the Year, p. XV.

⁷ *Ibid,* p. XIV.

⁸ Id, Commission on Audit. Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Transportation for the

motor vehicles, undeposited collections and uncorrected prior year's errors".9

WHEREAS, the underutilization of DOTr's aid funds not only hindered its optimum use towards much needed programs, it also immobilized already scarce funds which could have been appropriated towards the health and education sectors especially in this time of pandemic. Concerned offices and officials must therefore be enjoined to explain their failure to perform their mandates;

WHEREAS, there should be no room for ineptitude and gross negligence in government service, especially at a time when such services are essential to the very survival of our citizens. The Senate must inquire into the gaps in existing laws that cause delay in public service. It is also imperative that DOTr's policies are looked into to ascertain whether existing bureaucracies in its system hamper the performance of duties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Department of Transportation's (DOTr) deficient disbursement of its allocated aid funds under Bayanihan 2, as well as other delays and deficiencies in its project implementation, with the end in view of holding officials accountable for said deficiencies and delay.

Adopted,

LEILA M. DE LIMA

⁹ Ibid.