

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

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SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 324

Introduced by Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLIGHT OF TRANSPORT COOPERATIVES THAT ARE DISPLACED BY UNREGISTERED AND NON-FRANCHISED PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES AND OUT-OF-LINE VEHICLES AND THE EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD, AND THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE TO ADDRESS THIS PERENNIAL IRREGULARITY

WHEREAS, it is declared policy of the State to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic development and social justice, and the State shall encourage the private sector to undertake the actual formation and organization of cooperatives;

WHEREAS, in his inaugural State of the Nation Address in July 25, 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte vowed to strengthen the campaign against unregistered public utility vehicles, to quote in verbatim: "Our anti-colorum campaign and out-of-line apprehension, including the removal of terminals, will be intensified. My God, it will be done. Immediately. Immediately." the President said;

WHEREAS, private automobiles that operate as Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs) with no approved franchise from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) are referred to as "colorum" vehicles, likewise, the term includes PUVs that have a permit to operate but operate outside their route;

WHEREAS, despite directives from the President to rectify "colorum" vehicles, a lot of transport cooperatives have yet to take over their rightful lines or routes as they are displaced by groups of unregistered and out-of-line vehicles, which, in some cases, have the support of some local government units;

WHEREAS, aside from the alleged corruption among officials of LTFRB and the Land Transportation Office, transport cooperatives complain of terminal operators that dispatch non-franchised vehicles, and the harassment of highway patrol groups that solicit money as some of the burdens they have to endure on a regular basis as they try to earn a decent living;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9520 or the Cooperative Code of 2008 clearly states that transport cooperatives shall have preferential right on securing franchises for active or potential routes for public transport;

WHEREAS, there is a need to investigate this matter to address this chronic problem of not according transport cooperatives their preferential right and other privileges as accorded by Cooperative Code of 2008;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate directs the Senate Committee on Cooperatives and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the plight of transport cooperatives that are displaced by unregistered and non-franchised public utility vehicles and out-of-line vehicles and the efforts being undertaken by government agencies such as the Land Transportation Office, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and the Office of Transportation Cooperative to address this perennial irregularity.

Adopted,

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI