

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 554

17 DEC 4 10:39

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REAL STATUS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE (PUV) MODERNIZATION PROGRAM CONSIDERING ITS IMPACT ON THE TRANSPORT SECTOR AND THE COMMUTING PUBLIC**

**WHEREAS**, on 19 June 2017, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) issued Department Order No. 2017-011 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Planning and Identification of Public Road Transportation Services and Franchise Issuance which laid down the basic specifications of Public Utility Vehicles (PUV) as part of its PUV Modernization Program;

**WHEREAS**, the government's PUV Modernization Program is reportedly designed to make PUV safer, more convenient and comfortable, and environment-friendly;

**WHEREAS**, Section 3.1 of said Department Order provides that "(t)he Local Public Transport Route Plan shall be the minimum requirement prescribed for the issuance of franchises";

**WHEREAS**, Section 5.2.2 of said Department Order also provides that the "LTFRB shall issue a Memorandum Circular to provide for a modernization program for all PUVs, establishing the age limit of each classification based on the year of the oldest major component of the vehicle...";

**WHEREAS**, neither the local route plans nor the pertinent LTFRB Memorandum Circular have been issued while the PUV Modernization Program continues to roll out since June 2017;

**WHEREAS**, several transport groups have publicly voiced their opposition to the PUV Modernization Program because of the seeming "phase out" of jeepneys despite the lack of local route plans and the LTFRB Memorandum Circular that will set the guidelines for the program;<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://news.mb.com.ph/2017/10/16/piston-seeks-dialogue-with-duterte-on-puv-modernization-program/>.

**WHEREAS**, the transport groups also lament the high cost of replacing the current jeepney units with ones that are estimated to cost between Php1.5 – 1.8 million which the groups tag as “anti-poor”<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, transport groups are also reportedly alarmed that the government will push through with the phasing out of old public utility vehicle units in 1 January 2018, following President Rodrigo Duterte's public pronouncement that jeepneys must modernize by the end of the year;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, nationwide transport strikes by transport groups have been staged last February, September, and October opposing the PUV Modernization Program which prompted class and work cancellations, and paralyzed public commuting in several cities;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, another two-day nationwide transport strike was set to be staged on 4 and 5 December 2017 which, although temporarily averted,<sup>5</sup> further brought to light the urgency of the issue;

**WHEREAS**, the dearth of information on the program leave room for a lot of doubt on its feasibility particularly regarding the capacity of government to finance all affected drivers/operators; to check compliance of the new units with the Euro 4 standard considering that no agency has equipment for such purpose; the capacity of affected individual drivers and small operators to handle the financing scheme; and even basic details like the number of routes and jeepney drivers/operators which stand to be displaced by the program;

**WHEREAS**, while the intent of the PUV Modernization Program is laudable, it may have unintended negative effects for hundreds of thousands of public utility jeepney drivers/operators, and, consequently, the commuting public, considering that several issues remain to be threshed out regarding the program;

**WHEREAS**, urgent congressional action is necessary to address these issues hounding the PUV Modernization Program, because it affects not only jeepney drivers/operators but also the entire nation that depends on this mode of public transportation that is being modernized with haste;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the real status of the PUV Modernization Program, considering its impact on the transport sector and the commuting public.

*Adopted,*

  
**GRACE POE**

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/185435-explainer-philippines-transport-strike-october-2017>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/185600-duterte-jeepney-drivers-modernize-get-out>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/185435-explainer-philippines-transport-strike-october-2017>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/190217-transport-strike-cancel-piston-december>.