

SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 883

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Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE (PUV) MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr) IN ORDER TO ULTIMATELY ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF INDIVIDUAL DRIVERS, TRANSPORT GROUPS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND UNIONS TOWARDS A MORE EFFICIENT AND INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUV MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

1 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Philippine
2 Constitution, "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will
3 ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from
4 poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
5 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;"

6 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution also states under Article II, Section 10, that
7 "The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development;"

8 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution further provides in Article II, Section 18, that
9 "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the
10 rights of workers and promote their welfare;"

11 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) is the primary policy,
12 planning, programming, coordinating, implementing, and administrative body on
13 transportation. DOTR is tasked with the promotion, development, and regulation of
14 a dependable and coordinated network of transportation systems, as well as, the
15 fast, safe, efficient and reliable transportation services;

1 **WHEREAS**, the DOTr issued Department Order 2017-011 regarding the
2 Omnibus Guidelines on the Planning and Identification of Public Road Transportation
3 Services and Franchise Issuance last June 19, 2017. This Department Order is also
4 known as the "Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program;"

5 **WHEREAS**, the PUV Modernization Program features regulatory reform to
6 the transportation system, new guidelines for the issuance of franchise for public
7 transport services, and most notably fleet modernization which would include new
8 redesigns of public utility vehicles to allow them to be efficient and environmentally
9 friendly;

10 **WHEREAS**, transport groups, associations, and unions have voiced out their
11 concerns regarding certain provisions of the PUV Modernization Program especially
12 towards fleet modernization and other policies, among these are:

- 13 a. Small groups are having some difficulty forming cooperatives as they
14 have said that the registration fee was suddenly increased by the
15 Office of Transportation Cooperatives (OTC) from Php 30,000 to Php
16 300,000;
- 17 b. Many drivers are worried about the modernization timeline as many
18 transport groups are still awaiting their chance to register as per the
19 provisions of the program. They were also made aware that there is
20 still a supply gap of the proposed modern jeepneys in market. As such,
21 these groups and individuals are hoping for an adjustment to the
22 timeline to accommodate transport groups and drivers who are still
23 waiting to register;
- 24 c. Several tricycle operators are concerned that they will also be affected
25 once modern jeepneys take on routes previously covered by tricycles;
- 26 d. Many drivers have expressed their concern that no blueprint or road
27 map has been provided by the National Government on how the
28 modernization program will be pursued. Given this, several drivers said
29 that they are "going in blind," and are worried that big players in the
30 transport industry , who have successfully applied and registered will
31 be given routes, will shut out small players;

- 1 e. Many drivers have stated their concerns regarding the long wait for the
2 release of the subsidies provided by the Pantawid Pasada Program
3 under the TRAIN law;
- 4 f. Many transport groups are requesting to be given the chance to
5 remodel old units instead of replacing them as many want to maintain
6 the iconic look of the Philippine jeepney. The proposed design of the
7 new jeepneys more closely resembles a mini bus;
- 8 g. It has been suggested that there be a longer payment term for the
9 loans provided to drivers and operators;
- 10 h. There are still issues being raised regarding job security upon roll out
11 of the program; and
- 12 i. There are suggestions for the government to think of an exit plan for
13 those drivers who wish to retire and/or give up old jeepneys.

14 **WHEREAS,** it is recognized that the goals of the program are to provide safe
15 and comfortable transport, have a more predictable travel time for
16 passengers/commuters, create disciplined and competent drivers, and instill fair
17 regulations. However, more consideration and clarifications need to be made by the
18 government in order to address the concerns voiced by immediately affected
19 stakeholders, especially the drivers;

20 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved by
21 the Philippine Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an
22 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the current status of the Public Utility Vehicle
23 Modernization Program of the Department of Transportation in order to ultimately
24 address the concerns of individual drivers, transport groups, associations, and
25 unions towards a more efficient and inclusive implementation of the Public Utility
26 Vehicle Modernization Program.

Adopted,

