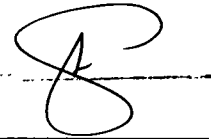


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

24 JAN -8 AM 5:1

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. **893**

RECEIVED



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE NEED OF AN ACCURATE
AND THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE (PUV)
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Department of Transportation launched the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program wherein old PUVs shall be phased out and shall be replaced with newer and safer vehicles;

WHEREAS, in line with the ongoing Modernization Program and as part of the process, the affected drivers and operators are given until 31 December 2023 to consolidate into a corporation or cooperative;

WHEREAS, according to reports, 153,787 out of 222,617 PUV units, have already complied with the Modernization Program;

WHEREAS, despite the moves to modernize the PUVs, the Program has received various concerns and criticisms from several transport groups and individuals, especially on its feasibility;

WHEREAS, for traditional jeepney drivers and operators, the deadline is too close for comfort to comply with the consolidation requirements such as the necessary documents, membership fees in cooperatives, funds to secure stocks in corporations, and other prerequisites. Moreover, membership fees in cooperatives or stocks in corporations are a heavy burden to some drivers and operators of PUVs;

WHEREAS, on 29 December 2023, members of transport groups such as PISTON and Manibela planned to camp out at Liwasang Bonifacio until New Year's Day as they protest the 31 December 2023 deadline for franchise consolidation. The said protest action is the final effort of the drivers, operators, and other groups to oppose the franchise consolidation and the PUV Modernization Program before the revocation of the permits of thousands of unconsolidated operators on 01 January 2024;

WHEREAS, Manibela Chairperson Mar Valbuena stated that, "*Hindi po matatapos itong mga protesta na ikakasa natin...hanggang mabingi ang gobyerno sa panawagan natin. Kung hindi man tayo mapapakinggan, marami pang paraan, marami pang kilos-protesta ang gagawin natin.*" Further, PISTON member and jeepney driver Marcos Berredo said he does not want to join a cooperative or corporation because the work demand is unreasonable. According to Berredo, "*Ito po 'yung totoong scenario na nangyayari sa amin: Apat na coop, 'yung isa, ₱9,000 ang quota isang araw, mula alas singko ng umaga hanggang alas diyos ng gabi araw-araw. Sabi ko, 'hindi na hanapbuhay 'yun.' Mamamatay ka du'n, eh,*" he said during the protest";

WHEREAS, due to the various concerns and criticisms, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) modified its stand allowing individual PUV operators to continue its routes without a consolidated transport service entity or TSE until 31 January 2024. The one-month grace period was granted by the LTFRB as the Supreme Court still had not issued a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the PUV Modernization Program, including the 31 December deadline;

WHEREAS, PISTON Southern Tagalog Secretary General Miguel Portea said that the group believes that the Modernization Program will drive drivers and operators to bankruptcy. According to Arnel Lalogo, one of the jeepney drivers who joined the protest, the upgrading of his jeep would cost him more than what he earns. Lalogo said the cost which would be up to Php 2.5 million for a unit is too high even if he pays for it in installments and even with assistance from the government. Lalogo further said, "*Magkano lang po ang aming kinikita sa araw-araw minsan P700 to P800 — hanggang P1,000 — eh dun palang kukunin ang aming pangaraw-araw, upa sa bahay, bayad sa kuryente, kaya wala pong natitira*";

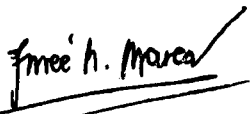
WHEREAS, the affected drivers and operators appealed to the President to heed their calls because their source of income is on the line;

WHEREAS, the alarming number of PUVs that fail to consolidate is one of the factors that require attention as it will also have an adverse impact on commuters and the country's public transportation;

WHEREAS, given the abovementioned concerns and issues, the government and the PUV stakeholders should continue dialogues to find a win-win solution. The country can ill-afford a transport crisis, especially that the economy is still recovering from the impact of the pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the need of an accurate and thorough assessment of the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS