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OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 379

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE CONVERSION OF TAXI CABS INTO LPG FUELED VEHICLES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WILL ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AGAINST THE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH LPG INHALATION

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is a paramount policy issue especially as this principle echoes the constitutional mandate of the State to protect the health of its citizens;

WHEREAS, the development of LPG fuel in the country is part of a global environmental health campaign in order to reduce air pollution and provide alternatives to the use of petroleum fuel;

WHEREAS, in the past decades, LPG fuel has already been used in Italy, Japan, South Korea and the United States with over 10 million motorists running on LPG fuel. There are, at present, about one million LPG vehicles in Italy and more than 400,000 LPG vehicles in the Netherlands and nearly all taxis in Tokyo are running on LPG. This technology, also known as "autogas", has been launched in the Philippines to provide an alternative fuel that is cheaper and cleaner;

WHEREAS, at present, there are about 40,000 taxis registered with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) of which 36,000 are operating in Metro Manila. There are at least 12,000 taxis out of the 40,000 taxi units that have been converted to LPG fueled vehicles;

WHEREAS, the use of LPG fueled taxi is becoming popular in the country because aside from being cheaper, its emission level is said to be not harmful to the environment. It is reported that taxi cabs that run on LPG save about 44 percent in fuel costs. Compared to gasoline and diesel, a liter of LPG only cost P25.00 or less while a liter of gasoline cost P41.00, giving the vehicle owner savings of at least P10.00 to P13.00;

WHEREAS, there are, however, newspaper reports which indicate that taxi vehicles powered by liquefied petroleum gas pose serious health risks to its drivers and passengers. Many taxi drivers who are using LPG fueled taxi cabs complain of chest pains, difficulty in breathing and respiratory problems. This may be caused by the

substandard installation of LPG conversion gadgets in the taxi vehicle which causes the LPG gas to leak and be inhaled by the taxi driver and its passengers;

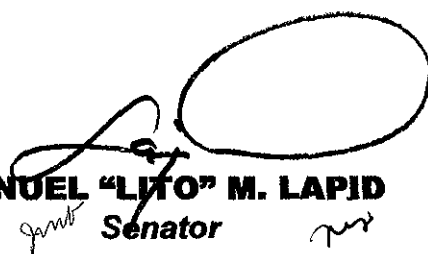
WHEREAS, the issue concerning the health effects of LPG fueled taxi cabs was heightened after a number of taxi drivers expressed concerns in a radio interview on the purported gas leaks in their conversion kits. Complaints of dizziness, persistent dry cough and dryness of throat were some of the most common complaints among the taxi drivers. The Department of Health (DOH) has received numerous complaints from taxi drivers that their state of health has deteriorated when they started driving an LPG fueled taxi cab;

WHEREAS, there is now a growing awareness on the health and safety of taxi units converted to LPG which necessitates the conduct of a comprehensive study and investigation in order to enact a legislative measure that will ensure the proper installation of safety devices and ensure the health and well-being of the many drivers and passengers of LPG fueled vehicles;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that LPG conversion shops which are installing LPG conversion kits are properly licensed and monitored by the government in order to ensure that they comply with internationally accepted standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and other appropriate committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the health and safety policies, regulations and standards implemented by the government in relation to the conversion of taxi cabs into LPG fueled vehicles, with the end in view of enacting legislative measures that will ensure the health and safety of the general public against the health risks associated with LPG inhalation.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator