



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

'17 FEB 23 AIO :16

SENATE
P.S. Res 301

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, AS PART OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTION, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE REPORTED BUS ACCIDENT THAT TRAGICALLY CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 15 PASSENGERS, MOSTLY STUDENTS, FROM BESTLINK COLLEGE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND TO REVIEW EXISTING LAWS AND POLICIES WITH REGARD TO ENSURING THE ROADWORTHINESS OF PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES AND THE COMPETENCE OF DRIVERS OF SUCH VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 states that: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs."

WHEREAS, various media reported that a tourist bus carrying 58 passengers from Bestlink College of the Philippines lost its breaks as it was traveling downhill on an accident-prone dead curve in Sitio Bayucal, Tanay; thus slamming onto a Meralco post and tree at the roadside;

WHEREAS, the victims were supposed to attend a camping tour in a resort in Tanay as part of the National Service Training Program;

WHEREAS, the accident left a teacher, 13 students, and the bus driver dead, with 40 others injured or in critical condition;

WHEREAS, town authorities claimed that the bus could have been speeding since the impact was so strong that the roof of the bus almost got detached; some survivors, on the other hand, said that they smelled something like burning tires;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10916 or the Road Speed Limiter Act of 2016 states that: "Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to

maintain at all times the safety and protection of the public. Towards this end, it shall pursue a more proactive and preventive approach to secure the safety of passengers and public in general on roads and highways. It shall implement measures to safeguard them from any speed-related road accidents which are not only causing fatalities but also damage to properties”;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of R.A. No. 10916 states: “No covered vehicle, following the effectivity of this Act, shall be allowed to run in any road, street or highway in the Philippines without a standard speed limiter in accordance with the standards and specifications approved by the DOTC; *Provided*, that in case of vehicles which are already registered with any appropriate agency, this requirement shall be complied with not later than eighteen (18) months from the effectivity of this Act”;

WHEREAS, although vehicles already registered are given 18 months to comply with the law, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) should be proactive in ensuring the roadworthiness of public vehicles;

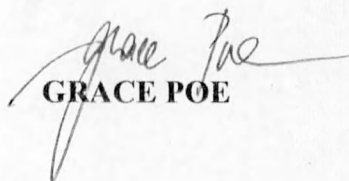
WHEREAS, the LTFRB and the LTO should ensure that immediate compliance is made by covered vehicles;

WHEREAS, the LTFRB and the LTO should also review existing policies on allowing old vehicles to continue operating as public vehicles and craft guidelines on hiring drivers for public utility vehicles;

WHEREAS, the proper government agencies should also consider the need to mandate continuing traffic and road safety education for drivers of public utility vehicles;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Committee on Public Services, as part of its oversight function, to conduct an inquiry on the reported bus accident that tragically claimed the lives of 15 passengers, mostly students, from Bestlink College of the Philippines, and to review existing laws and policies with regard to ensuring the roadworthiness of public utility vehicles and the competence of drivers of such vehicles.

Adopted.


GRACE POE