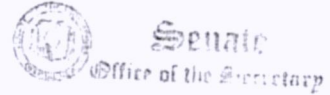



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'17 JUL 19 P6:13

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 434

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING AN
EFFICIENT, DEPENDABLE, SAFE, AFFORDABLE AND VIABLE MASS
TRANSPORT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Communications (now Department of Transportation) issued Department Order No. 2015-11 which stated, "the Department will recognize new forms of transport services that can help to address large demand of transport services in expeditious and responsive ways. In addition to recognizing these new forms of transport services, there is also a need to modernize and improve the transport services currently being offered to the Filipino public";

WHEREAS, the same Department Order introduced four new transport categories—the Transportation Network Vehicle Service (TNVS), Premium Taxi, Airport Bus, and Bus Rapid Transit—aimed at encouraging innovation across all forms of public land transport in order to increase mobility on major thoroughfares, boost travel time, improve the quality, sustainability, and reliability of public transport service, and respond to the needs of the modern commuter;

WHEREAS, on July of 2016, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) issued Memorandum Circular 2016-008 directing its technical division and regional offices not to accept any applications for TNVS, particularly those of Uber, GrabCar, and Uhop, due to the rising volume of TNVS applications and pending review of the fare scheme and other existing policies on the issuance of franchise to TNVS;

WHEREAS, on July of 2017, the LTFRB slapped Uber and Grab a P5-million fine for allowing some of their drivers operate without permits and ordered the companies to deactivate more than 50,000 so-called colorum TNVS drivers or those without provisional authority or certificate of public convenience;

WHEREAS, Filipino commuters rallied support on social media for Grab and Uber, stressing that ride-sharing applications offer better service, safety, convenience, and courtesy that other transportation services such as public taxis failed to provide;

WHEREAS, prior the TNVS issue, the DOTr launched the public utility vehicle (PUV) modernization program that aims to gradually phase out old and dilapidated jeepneys, operating for 15 years or more, and replace them with environment-friendly vehicles equipped with more efficient engines, such as Euro 4 engines or electrically powered engines with solar panels for roofs;

WHEREAS, the program was met with protests from transport groups that called for the deferment of its implementation, saying that small jeepney operators do not have enough money to finance the conversion of jeepneys to solar-powered vehicles;

WHEREAS, the country's rail transit system, on the other hand, has come under intense public scrutiny in recent years with commuters regularly complaining of long waiting lines, passenger congestion, defective coaches, and generally poor maintenance;

WHEREAS, the Duterte administration has identified traffic and congestion problem in the country a crisis that "impedes the mobility of people, goods and services" and "threatens the livability of our cities";

WHEREAS, to help ease the worsening traffic congestion in Metro Manila and other urban centers in the country, the government must encourage people to take mass transit rather than use their own cars by improving the public transportation system to make it a viable option;

WHEREAS, there is thus an urgent need not only to address the issue affecting the TNVS but likewise the broader yet no less important need to update our traffic laws and improve public mass transport in line with this administration's thrust in pursuing greater spending on infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the state of public transportation in the country, with the end in view of ensuring an efficient, dependable, safe, affordable and viable mass transport system attuned to the challenges besetting our country.

Adopted.



SONNY ANGARA