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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 938

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EXISTING PROCEDURES AND/OR PROTOCOLS IN THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) AMIDST REPORTS OF ALLEGED RAILROADING AND/OR IRREGULARITIES LEADING TO ISSUANCES BY THE BOARD, WITH THE END GOALS OF FORMULATING MEASURES TO UPHOLD THE RIGHT OF PERTINENT STAKEHOLDERS TO BE HEARD, TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS, OPINIONS AND ANALYSES OF INVOLVED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BE JUDICIOUSLY CONSIDERED, AND TO ULTIMATELY ENSURE THAT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE RIDING PUBLIC BE SERVED

1 **WHEREAS**, it is the "prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect
2 the people"¹;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, "the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life,
5 liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the
6 enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy"²;

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board
9 (LTFRB) had reportedly met with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the
10 National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Department of
11 Energy (DOE) to seek said agencies' assistance and guidance in addressing the issue
12 regarding fare hike for Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs);

13
14 **WHEREAS**, NEDA relayed its recommendations/analysis to LTFRB, most
15 notable of which are the following:

- 16
17 a. NEDA recommended a lower (Php0.50) fare hike than what
18 LTFRB decided to grant (Php1.00);

¹ Section 4, Article 2, Constitution.

² Section 5, Article 2, Constitution.

- 1 b. The Php1.00 increase will "push the country's annual inflation
2 up by 0.076 percentage points in 2018" and "it is estimated to
3 contribute 0.221 percentage points" increase in 2019;
4
- 5 c. The Php0.50 increase, on the other hand, will only increase the
6 inflation by 0.05 percentage points in 2018 and 0.146
7 percentage points in 2019;
8
- 9 d. It was recommended that the LTFRB "set a provision that would
10 automatically lift the provisional increase in PUB and PUJ fare,
11 should fuel prices decline to a certain level"; and
12
- 13 e. The government's "Pantawid Pasada Program" must be
14 implemented to help PUJ operators/drivers;
15

16 **WHEREAS**, NEDA's recommendations were neither considered nor reflected
17 in the LTFRB's Decision dated 18 October 2018 making the previous provisional
18 Php1.00 fare increase permanent and granting an additional permanent Php1.00
19 fare increase, thereby making the minimum fare in PUJs Php10.00;
20

21 **WHEREAS**, LTFRB, aside from disregarding NEDA's recommendations, only
22 had "one unscheduled board meeting held on 15 October 2018 attended by two (2)
23 members of the Board to discuss the PUJ fare hike" and that said "board meeting"
24 only lasted for 32 minutes and 40 seconds, all according to the "Dissenting Opinion"
25 of Board Member Aileen Lizada (BM Lizada);
26

27 **WHEREAS**, several days after LTFRB's Decision granting the fare hike, the
28 Department of Transportation (DOTr) urged LTFRB to "review" its decision regarding
29 the fare hike in light of consecutive rollbacks in the prices of petroleum products³;
30

31 **WHEREAS**, it has also been reported that some of the Board Resolutions
32 issued by the LTFRB were issued without the knowledge, participation and/or
33 signature of BM Lizada;
34

35 **WHEREAS**, in addition, it has also been reported that there is nothing in the
36 above-mentioned Board Resolutions which require that said issuances be posted
37 and/or published for pertinent stakeholders/players to be informed and for the latter
38 to meaningfully participate in the procedures of the LTFRB;
39

40 **WHEREAS**, several transport groups had accused LTFRB of granting routes
41 and/or CPCs/CPCNs to "favored" operators/players without even the prior knowledge
42 and participation of existing operators/drivers, thereby disregarding the "Prior
43 Operator Rule";

³ <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/673146/dotr-wants-ltfrb-to-review-fare-hike-decision/story/>

1 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to expose to public scrutiny the processes and
2 procedures in the LTFRB to ensure that pertinent stakeholders, opinions, studies and
3 analyses be judiciously considered and/or heard first and foremost before LTFRB
4 make issuances affecting lives and livelihood of PUV operators and drivers and the
5 riding public;

6
7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the
8 Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Services to
9 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the existing procedures and/or protocols
10 in the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) amidst reports
11 of alleged railroading and/or irregularities leading to issuances by the board, with
12 the end goals of formulating measures to uphold the right of pertinent stakeholders
13 to be heard, to ensure that relevant recommendations, opinions and analyses of
14 involved government agencies be judiciously considered, and to ultimately ensure
15 that the best interests of the riding public be served;

16
17 *Adopted.*


GRACE POE