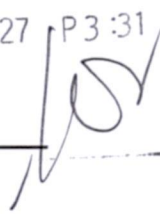


Office of the Secretary
Senate

NOV 27 2018 P3:31


SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 954

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RULES OR POLICIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR) AND THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) IN RELATION TO WHICH PROVINCIAL BUSES SHALL HAVE ROUTES TERMINATED AT THE PARAÑAQUE INTEGRATED TERMINAL EXCHANGE (PITX), WITH THE END GOALS OF ENSURING THE VIABILITY AND INTERCONNECTIVITY OF THE PITX, ENSURING THAT THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD OF PASSENGERS, OPERATORS, DRIVERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS BE UPHELD AND TO ERADICATE ANY AND ALL CONFUSION AS TO THE OPERATION OF THE PITX

1 **WHEREAS**, "the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the
2 people"¹ and "the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and
3 property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment
4 by all the people of the blessings of democracy"²;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), dubbed as
7 the country's "first landport", was inaugurated by President Duterte last 5 November
8 2018;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, PITX is a 4.5-hectare "all-in-one" terminal housing transportation
11 bays, commercial spaces and office buildings;

12
13 **WHEREAS**, PITX was designed and built to handle 100,000 passengers daily
14 as it sought to be the ending of all routes originating from Cavite and Batangas and
15 from where passengers would transfer into in-city buses, taxis, jeepneys and UV
16 Express Shuttles³, as such, PITX ought to decongest traffic in Metro Manila as
17 around 1,000 provincial buses will no longer enter Metro Manila;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the first floor of PITX houses an information center, bus ticketing
20 counters, and bus boarding gates; its second floor houses 36 loading bays and 23

¹ Section 4, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution.
² Section 5, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution.
³ <https://www.rappler.com/business/215925-photos-paranaque-integrated-terminal-exchange>

1 unloading bays for buses; its third floor houses 18 loading bays and 17 unloading
2 bays for UV Express shuttles, as well as a proposed link to the LRT1 Cavite
3 extension; its fourth floor houses 852 parking spaces for motorists⁴;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the world class gargantuan PITX, however, generated complaints
6 and controversy from passengers, PUV operators/drivers and prospective
7 concessionaires/lessors due to sudden change in the policies and/or issuances of the
8 Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Land Transportation Franchising and
9 Regulatory Board (LTFRB);

10
11 **WHEREAS**, on 13 September 2018, LTFRB issued Memorandum Circular
12 (MC) No. 2018-020 mandating that "all Provincial Public Utility Buses (PUBs) UV
13 Express Service and Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs) originating from provinces
14 southwest of Metro Manila entering via Coastal Road and/or Manila Cavite
15 Expressway...shall end their routes at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange
16 (PITX) in Coastal Road Parañaque, from the date PITX is fully operational";

17
18 **WHEREAS**, on 12 October 2018, however, less than a month from the
19 inauguration of the PITX, the DOTr suddenly issued Department Order (DO) No.
20 2018-025 "exempting some 300 provincial buses from ending their routes at PITX"⁵;

21
22 **WHEREAS**, DOTr's DO No. 2018-025 resulted in utter confusion amongst
23 passengers, operators, drivers and law enforcers. Operators/drivers decried the lack
24 of clear and transparent parameters as to the basis of exempting some 300
25 provincial buses;⁶ operators/drivers who are to terminate their routes at the PITX
26 lament that passengers would necessarily choose the exempted provincial buses that
27 could go inside Metro Manila straight to their in-city destinations; operators/drivers
28 accuse DOTr of being biased in favor of a few bus lines; PUVs from Cavite and
29 Batangas are bypassing the PITX and continue to go on with their in-city routes
30 and/or destinations; law enforcers have no idea as to which buses are exempted
31 from terminating at the PITX⁷;

32
33 **WHEREAS**, to further aggravate the controversy surrounding the PITX,
34 LTFRB issued MC No. 2018-022 supposedly to implement and enforce DOTr's DO
35 No. 2018-025, which exempted some provincial buses from terminating at the PITX.
36 Surprisingly, LTFRB's Board Member Aileen Lizada (BM Lizada) claims that said MC
37 No. 2018-022 was "falsified"⁸;

38
39 **WHEREAS**, BM Lizada maintains the third page of what purports to be MC
40 No. 2018-022 where her "dissenting opinion" appears is legitimate, "but that it is
41 part of a different memorandum circular earlier circulated for LTFRB board members'

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/13/18/dotr-denies-bias-in-pitx-exemption>

⁶ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/09/18/cavite-bus-operators-call-for-fair-regulation-on-use-of-pitx>

⁷ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/11/13/18/mmda-seeks-guidelines-on-pitx-routes>

⁸ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/23/18/ltfrb-accuses-lizada-of-spreading-false-malicious-pitx-info-to-media>

1 review and signatures", she further claims that "DOTr might have been misled to
2 believe that LTFRB MC 2018-022 is a legitimate document. It is not"⁹;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, in view of the foregoing, there were reports that the massive
5 PITX only caters to less than 10% of its expected buses/PUVs and passengers in
6 reality because of DOTr's and LTFRB's sudden change of its rules, thus, current and
7 prospective investors, concessionaires of food stands/stalls and the like had
8 reportedly backed out;

9
10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the
11 Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Services to
12 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the rules or policies of the Department
13 of Transportation (DOTr) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory
14 Board (LTFRB) in relation to which provincial buses shall have routes terminated at
15 the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), with the end goals of ensuring
16 the viability and interconnectivity of the PITX, ensuring that the right to be heard of
17 passengers, operators, drivers and other stakeholders be upheld and to eradicate
18 any and all confusion as to the operation of the PITX;

19
20 *Adopted.*


GRACE POE

⁹ *Ibid.*