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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1225

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Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

RESOLUTION

TO INVESTIGATE CAUSES OF NON-COMPLIANCE TO STRINGENT TRANSPORTATION
SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS IN PUBLIC SEAPORTS, BUS TERMINALS, AND OTHER
COMMON CARRIERS

1 WHEREAS, a total of 27 passengers died after M/B Aya Express capsized in Laguna
2 de Bay after leaving the port of Binangonan, Rizal last July 27, 2023, after they manifested
3 only 22 passengers in their submission but actually allowed 60 passengers onboard, a
4 Senate investigative hearing followed afterwards;

5 WHEREAS, on October 7, 2024, a surprise inspection was conducted by the Office
6 of Senator Raffy Tulfo at the same Binangonan Port in Rizal, where numerous violations
7 were still identified;

8 WHEREAS, passenger capacity is still the most pressing issue of the port. Upon
9 inspection, it was found out that some boats are purposely concealing the passenger
10 capacity mandated to be painted on the boat supposedly for everyone to see;

11 WHEREAS, the M/B Aya Express tragedy did not serve as a lesson because
12 operators at Binangonan Port continue to go beyond their declared passenger capacity,
13 aggravated by heavy baggages and cargo allowed onboard the boats;

14 WHEREAS, boats at the port are using life vests made of styrofoam, which, the
15 Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) admitted are prone to breakage, confirmed by life vests on
16 board the boats with pulverized styrofoam coming out of life vests with holes;

1 WHEREAS, a boat arriving at the port was also caught with passengers who are
2 not wearing the provided life vest, as they either took it off in the midst of sailing, or the
3 crew did not require them to wear it before it took sail, which only means that the crew
4 are not strict in enforcing transportation safety standards;

5 WHEREAS, passenger insurance is another matter of concern at the port, the
6 declared capacity of passengers does not match the insured passengers of the boat
7 according to the insurance policy;

8 WHEREAS, it was also found that there was a sole insurance provider for the boats
9 in the port, "*Stronghold Insurance Corporated*," which was already the subject of
10 complaint in the public service program, "*Raffy Tulfo in Action*," and more complaints
11 were also filed against it through the records of the Insurance Commission;

12 WHEREAS, another inspection was conducted by the Office of Senator Raffy Tulfo
13 last October 28, 2024 in bus terminals along Buendia, Parañaque Integrated Terminal
14 Exchange (PITX), and Cubao;

15 WHEREAS, various violations at major terminals, particularly the following bus
16 lines: Buendia Bus Liner, DLTB Bus Co., JAM, JAC, LLI Bus Liner Terminal, Lines in the
17 Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), Five Star Bus Terminal, and Baliwag
18 Bus Liner Terminal, were identified;

19 WHEREAS, most buses at the various terminals visited had only one fire
20 extinguisher at the front of the bus for drivers and conductors, with none available for
21 passengers in the middle or rear sections. Many extinguishers were found to be expired
22 or defective as well;

23 WHEREAS, some buses are poorly maintained with bald tires and inadequate tire
24 pressure monitoring. Some drivers even admitted that they used makeshift methods to
25 check tire pressure, with one caught using a steel construction nail;

1 WHEREAS, some buses also lacked working emergency exits, proper emergency
2 equipment like glass break hammers, CCTV cameras, first aid kits, and insurance policies
3 which are crucial for the safety of passengers;

4 WHEREAS, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) also aided the
5 inspection for a random drug test, which rendered one driver who tested positive resulting
6 in immediate action to suspend their operations;

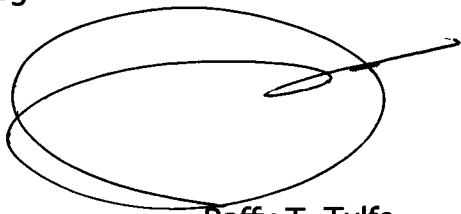
7 WHEREAS, the lack of preventive measures of these sea ports, bus companies
8 and terminals are highly concerning in ensuring transport safety and complying with
9 already established regulations;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Public Service calls
11 for an inquiry into the current state of transport safety to identify the challenges in
12 enforcement and recommend solutions for serious compliance;

13 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the committee shall have the following objectives:

- 14 1. To review existing laws, regulations, and policies governing transport safety
15 regulations and identify any bottlenecks or inefficiencies;
- 16 2. To determine the extent of enforcement methods and procedures, or lack of it,
17 conducted by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Industry Authority
18 (MARINA), and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and assess the reasons for failure
19 to enforce such;
- 20 3. To explore new stringent measures to impose against non-compliant operators;
- 21 4. To explore mechanisms for monitoring and ensuring compliance of both
22 enforcement agencies and operators; and
- 23 5. To make recommendations to the Senate for legislative measures that can
24 enhance the enforcement of transport safety regulations.

Adopted,



Raffy T. Tulfo