

Privilege Speech
15th City Council
Sangguniang Panlungsod
March 17, 2009

On the LTO Imposed New Fees
By Councilor Pilar C. Braga, PhD

Public utility drivers, specially those who drive jeepneys and taxis for a living, as well as other plain motorists are up in arms against the Land Transportation Office (LTO) for the imposition of higher penalty fees which the drivers consider as “exorbitant.”

According to LTO Regional Director Gomer Dy the new schedule of fees and penalties is contained under LTO Department Order 2008-39 which was issued last October 2008 but was only implemented March 2, 2009.

Madam President, while we go for tougher traffic rules for erring drivers and maniacs on wheels, we also want to rationalize the repercussions of exorbitant fees.

Based on the new penalty scheme provided under LTO Department Order 2008-30, a person driving under the influence of drugs will be fined Php10,000 and faces automatic revocation of his driver’s license.

Driving under the influence of liquor carries a fine of Php5,000 with a two-month suspension of the driver’s license.

The new order also imposes higher penalties for the following violations:

- driving without license, Php1,500
- driving with an expired license, Php400
- failure to carry a license, Php200
- possessing a fake driver’s license, Php2,000
- conviction of a crime using a motor vehicle, Php3,000
- and, hiring unlicensed conductor of a motor vehicle for hire, Php200

For operating or driving an unregistered or improperly registered, a Php2,000 fine will be imposed on the driver if he uses the vehicle without

the knowledge and consent of the owner. If the driver is also the owner of the subject motor vehicle, he will have to pay Php4,000.

For violations in connection with number plates, the penalties are:

- plate number not firmly attached to the vehicle, Php200
- obscure plates, Php200
- license plate different from body number on public utility motor vehicle, Php500
- improper display of a permanent plate, Php500
- use of expired commemorative plates or stickers, Php2,000
- tampered plates or stickers, Php2,000
- and illegal transfers of number plates, tags or stickers from one vehicle to another, Php10,000

The LTO office order has practically deprive drivers equal protection, violating the time honored principles of due process because it arrogate upon itself the power to perform the functions of a lawmaker, prosecutor and judge all in one, imposing sanctions for violators thereof without due process of law.

Most of the recently approved fines for traffic and administrative violations marked a 40 percent to 2,500 percent increase from their original penalties.

Adding injury to insult, neither the DOTC nor the LTO had exerted extra efforts to conduct information drive on the high increase in fines; much less did they make public consultations with the motoring public before implementing the hike in penalties.

So at the proper time, Madame President, allow me to pass a resolution requesting the DOTC and LTO to reconsider Department Order 2008-39.

Thank you.

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