

POE TELLS DOTR TO SUBMIT LIST OF PROJECTS UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS

MANILA -- Senator Grace Poe on Thursday called on the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to provide a specific list of projects that will be covered by the emergency powers for President Rodrigo Duterte to ease traffic congestion in the country.

Poe also urged the DOTr to submit a traffic management plan to counter the effects of nu-

merous infrastructure projects in relation to the worsening traffic.

She made the statement in response to the renewed call of the DOTr for Congress to pass the bill as a solution to address the country's traffic woes.

"We were all for passing the bill last Congress, if not for the failure of the DOT to submit to us the list of projects that will be covered

by the grant of powers," she said.

"Everything must be well-defined. Hindi puwede ang (We cannot allow a) blanket grant of emergency powers under the Constitution," she added.

The senator said President Duterte could also certify the bill as urgent to rally his allies in both Houses to support the bill's passage.

"Any bill that will improve

the quality of public services must certainly be prioritized," she said.

"Its approval, however, will depend on a lot of factors—the cooperation of both Houses of Congress, the clarity of its objectives, compliance by agencies to the important data required and, if absolutely necessary, a certification of urgency from the President," she added. (PNA)

Testimony of slain NUPL member's widow 'speculative': SolGen

MANILA -- The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) on Thursday challenged the relevance of the testimony of witnesses presented by the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) during the hearing on the writ of amparo suit filed by the group at the Court of Appeals (CA).

Assistant Solicitor General Marlon Bosantog, said allowing petitioner Clarissa Ramos, widow of the late NUPL lawyer Benjamin Ramos, to testify on the work of her late husband would "be a highly speculative" testimony.

Ramos, who represented a number of political prisoners, was the lawyer of youth leader Myles Albasin and her five companions -- known as the Mabinay 6 -- who were arrested in Mabinay, Negros Oriental, following a clash with government troopers in March 2018.

Bosantog also challenged another petitioner, Burgos, Isabela lawyer Maria Catherine Dannug-Salucan to disclose names of personnel and specific orders handed within the chain of command of the military to prove their claim of an organized undertaking by the military to persecute members of front organiza-

tions linked to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

He also questioned why Salucon became a party anew in the petition for writ of amparo when an earlier one she filed had been already ruled upon by the CA and the SC last year.

"The writ of amparo is personal and not transferable to organizations," Bosantog said.

Last January 23, the SC denied the petition for review on certiorari filed by the police and the military against Salucon's first am-

paró suit and instead for lack of merit affirmed the 2015 CA decision granting the issuance of the writs of amparo and habeas data to the National Union of Peoples' Lawyer (NUPL) based in Isabela, who was tagged as a "red lawyer" for representing political prisoners suspected to be members of the New People's Army.

The OSG also claimed that Salucon's proof of persecution was merely an "amalgamation of events which occurred since 2001," involving the NUPL though President Rodrigo

Duterte came to power in 2016.

Meanwhile, the legal team of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday appeared on behalf of military officials at the hearing.

Appearing before the appellate court are Judge Advocate General, Brig. Gen. Serme Ayuyao and Department of National Defense Legal Affairs Service chief, Director Norman Daanoy.

The CA has ordered another hearing on July 18 to hear a new set of witnesses. (PNA)

Solon wants DICT to lower SMS fees to one centavo

MANILA -- A resolution has been filed at the Senate urging the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to immediately reduce and set a strict one-centavo price ceiling on the cost of text messages.

According to a statement on Thursday, Senator Imee Marcos filed Senate Resolution No. 6 with the aim of balancing the business interest of the country's telecommunication providers and make sure that they abide by the global trend toward "cheaper and faster services" to the public.

“One peso is way too much to pay for every text message you send,” Marcos said.

Marcos noted that the public should already enjoy lower charges, particularly on the short messaging service (SMS) or text messages, which she described as a "practically costless forwarding service that piggybacks" on a readily available signal.

"Even if text messages cost only one centavo each, the three telco providers would still be able to profit from that," Marcos said.

“The so-called 'handshake' or persistent communication between a cel-

lular communications tower and a handset allows the delivery of text messages, which are small and simple relative to more data-intensive internet-based communications," she added.

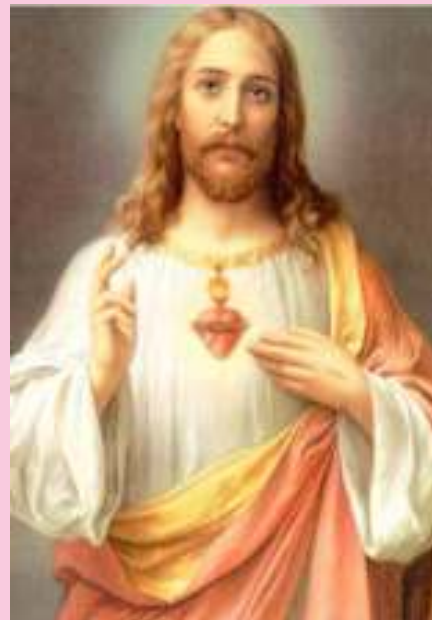
The senator noted that lowering the fees for SMS will reduce the cost of doing business, especially for small-scale entrepreneurs, as well as encourage the flow of information and knowledge-sharing among lower-income users.

"Cheaper text messages and a strict price ceiling are long overdue," Marcos said. (PNA)

Prayer for Healing

JESUS, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will.
Amen.

O BLOOD AND WATER WHICH
FLOWED OUT FROM THE HEART OF
JESUS AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR
US, I TRUST IN YOU!



*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy
Immortal One, Have Mercy on us
and on the whole world. Amen.*

3 O'CLOCK PRAYER

"You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."

“O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!”

“Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One
have mercy on us and on the whole world.” (3x)
Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you!

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