



LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Discussion Paper on the Draft IRR of Republic Act No. 11311

The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) lauds the enactment of Republic Act (RA) 11311 that seeks to improve and provide adequate facilities for Land Transportation Terminals, Stations, Stops, Rest Areas and Roll-On/Roll-Off Terminals for the convenience and comfort of its clientele. In line with this, the League has solicited and consolidated comments and suggestions from our member-cities with the aim of ensuring that the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) fully serves the intent and spirit of the law.

The roles and responsibilities of each relevant government agency can be further be delineated.

Section 5 of the IRR states the role of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) in authorizing inspection teams to take the lead in the inspection, monitoring, supervision and assessment on the compliance of all land transport and RORO terminals to the provisions of this Act. Further, DOTr also has the responsibility of imposing penalties, fines, as well as issue closure order against terminal operators who have violated minimum or standard provisions of this Act despite proper and due notice. The said stipulations may overlap existing mandates of local government units (LGUs), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and other concerned government agencies on the establishments under their jurisdictions and/or area. For instance, the proposed IRR, especially Section 5. Role of the DOTr undermines the authority expressly granted to LGUs and its local health officers by virtue of Presidential Decree (PD) 856 or the Sanitation Code of the Philippines. This presents an overlapping of responsibility between the DOTr and LGUs when it comes to the implementation of Section 7 of the proposed IRR vis-à-vis Section 6 of IRR of PD 856.

The provisions of the IRR must also be consistent with other existing laws.

As mentioned, there are possible inconsistencies between the proposed IRR and other existing laws such as PD 856 which specifies the responsibility of the Local Government Units particularly in the enforcement of the PD 856. The provisions of free internet access, sanitary facilities and lactation stations must adopt relevant guidelines and standards from



PD 856, Free Internet Access in Public Places Act (RA10929), and Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009 (RA10028). Provisions of these laws that are relevant to the implementation of RA 11311 should be consolidated in the proposed IRR of the same.

LGUs may be encouraged to issue an ordinance for the implementation of RA 11311 with the aim of incorporating other complementary local policies.

Additional provisions to further improve terminals, stations, rest areas and stops are green spaces, medical/health care assistance/first aid, battery-charging stations, gender-neutral restrooms and other features identified by the LGU can be imposed through the issuance of ordinances.

Other than what is provided in RA 11311, land and RORO terminals may also have facilities/features, which are equally beneficial to the riding public, such as wayfinding signs and green spaces.

With regard to the specifications of lactation stations, in particular, it is recommended to have a) Well-lighted and ventilated room; b) Corner area with provision for privacy; c) Lavatory with soap and water for handwashing; d) Breastfeeding policy posted; and e) No posters on artificial milk promotion seen

Other Concerns

Section 8 states the prohibition of collection of fees to access sanitary facilities. In relation to this, the League recommends that the use of lactation stations and internet must not also bear any collection of fees and must be stated in the same Section of the Act.