

LTFRB TO MEET WITH TNCS OVER HOLIDAY FARE HIKE

MANILA -- The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is set to meet with transport network companies (TNCs) this week to discuss complaints of an excessive surge in fares during the holidays.

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, the LTFRB said it has called the attention of TNCs, such as Grab Philippines and Angkas regarding the matter.

"According to commuters, some ride-hailing applications have started to charge higher fares since the Christmas season began, particularly this month," the post read.

"The LTFRB, in cooperation with accredited TNCs, are looking to settle this matter within the week," it added.

For his part, LTFRB Chairman Martin Delgra III said the issues will be dealt with by the LTFRB.

"The agency is at the forefront of ensuring public transportation remains safe, convenient, and also affordable. We will look into this," Delgra said.

The LTFRB said these ride-hailing applications have a standard rate of PHP40 as base fare, in addition to a PHP10-15 per kilometer and PHP2 per-minute charges.

During rush hour or heavy traffic, the LTFRB said TNCs are also allowed to double their per kilometer and per-minute charges through surge-pricing.

Arvin Lopez, a public relations officer of Grab Philippines, said they have yet to receive an official invitation from the LTFRB but has guaranteed the company's presence should the meeting occur.

"We have yet to receive the official invitation from the LTFRB on this subject, but we will definitely comply and attend to this discussion," Lopez said in a message to reporters.

In November, the LTFRB

announced a review of the fare setting of Grab Philippines following a recent fine imposed on the company for overcharging.

Imposed by the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), the LTFRB said the fine was due to Grab's failure to follow through with a voluntary commitment it made with the antitrust body and had nothing to do with the policies set by the agency. (PNA)

nos is to have a comfortable life," Panelo said.

On Nov. 19, the Chief Executive expressed optimism that his fellow Filipinos would remain cheerful despite the challenges they face and would find joy when they share a simple Noche Buena, a celebration observed by the nation on Christmas Eve.

Just like the President, Panelo also hoped for "peace on earth, not only in the Philippines."

"We have enough wars and so many negative things engulfing this world. We need a respite from all this," the Palace official said.

"I guess, what we really need is love. If we can only love one another, then it will be a better world to live in," he added.

Panelo also wished for the 74-year-old President's "good health," considering that the latter is "workaholic." (PNA)

Duterte to have 'simple' Christmas celebration in Davao

MANILA — For the fourth time since he assumed the highest office in 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte will be spending Christmas with his family in his residence in Davao City, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Duterte opted anew to celebrate Christmas without fanfare, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said.

"The President, as usual, will be spending his Christmas, with his family, with his grandchildren, children in his house in Davao City," Panelo told Palace reporters.

"Oo, palagi namang ganoon 'yun (Yes, that's what he regularly does)," he added, when asked if the President merely wants a simple Christmas celebration.

Duterte spends Christmas in his home in Davao City each year, even after getting elected as president.

It has also been the President's Christmas tradition to visit young cancer patients at the Southern Philippine Medical Center in Davao City every year.

Nearly two weeks before Christmas, Duterte played Santa to cancer-stricken Jacob Wong, 5, who visited

the President's hometown Dec. 13. The child received early Christmas presents and even a fatherly hug and kisses on the forehead from the President.

When he was mayor of Davao City, Duterte always hosted a Christmas party for residents at his ancestral home in Bangkal village.

He, however, was no longer able to attend the event when he became president for security reasons, although the annual gift-giving continues.

Duterte wants 'comfortable life for Filipinos'

"His wish for the Filipinos

NCR wage board OKs P1.5-K hike for domestic workers

MANILA — The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board - National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR) has formally approved the increase of PHP1,500 in the salary of domestic workers (kasambahays) in Metro Manila.

According to Wage Order No. NCR-DW-02, the new monthly minimum wage rate will be at PHP5,000 once the order takes effect.

"The Board agreed to provide for wage adjustments for domestic workers with immediate relief measures to manage the rising cost of living," it said.

Covered by the wage adjustment are house helpers, *yaya* (nannies), cooks, gardeners, and laundry persons.

Those who are not covered by the wage order are: service providers, family drivers, children under foster family arrangements, and persons only working occasionally.

According to the NCR wage board, the order was issued after it reviewed the socio-economic condition in Metro Manila *motu proprio* (on its own).

It is also the result of public consultations and hearings involving employers and domestic workers, among others.

Wage Order No. NCR-DW-02 will take effect 15 days after it is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Under the Kasambahay Law, regional wage boards are mandated to review the minimum wage rates for domestic workers regularly.

Prior to the issuance of the new wage order, the monthly floor wage for domestic workers is at PHP3,500 as provided by Wage Order No. NCR-DW-01 effective December 2017. (PNA)

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PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN

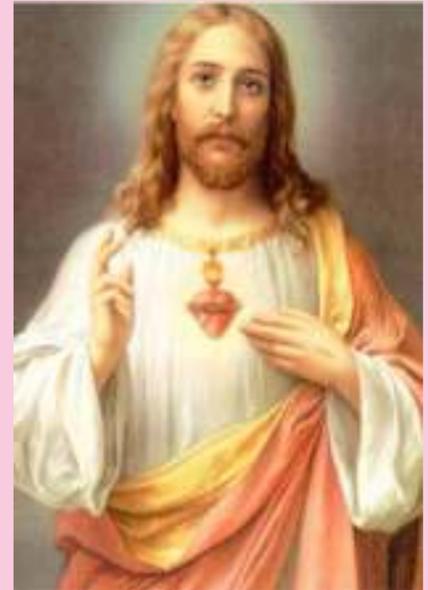
YOUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

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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