

ARTA FILES CHARGES AGAINST ERRING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019- The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) filed formal charges against erring employees of the Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the Registry of Deeds (ROD) due to violations committed under the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Law.

Earlier today, ARTA Director General Jeremiah Belgica went to the office of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to personally file the first batch of cases against a number of government employees following thorough investigation. These violations were found after ARTA received mounting complaints against said agencies. ARTA conducted a series of meetings and spot-checks on both LTFRB and ROD to confirm the allegations.

Some of the violations committed under Section 21 of Republic Act 11032 of the “*Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*” include:

- (a) imposition of additional requirements other than those listed in the Citizen’s Charter;
- (b) failure to render government services within the prescribed processing time on any application or request without due cause; and
- (c) failure to attend to applicants or requesting parties who are within the premises of the office or agency concerned prior to the end of official working hours and during lunch break.

“Paulit-ulit po ang ating paalala sa mga lalabag sa batas: hahanap kami ng paraan upang kayo ay patawan ng karampatang kaparusahan. Ang mga isinampang kaso po natin ngayon ay simula pa lamang ng aming patuloy na paglaban sa red tape”, the ARTA czar said.

Furthermore, under the EODB Law, stricter penalties are imposed. The law gives ARTA more teeth in pursuing anti-red tape cases as it introduces stricter rules such as the two-strike policy, which spells out penalties warranted for the first and second violation of the law. Penalties for the first and second offense are as follows:

- (a) First Offense: Administrative liability with six (6) months suspension;
- (b) Second Offense: Administrative liability and criminal liability of dismissal from the service, perpetual disqualification from holding public office, and forfeiture of retirement benefits and imprisonment of one (1) year to six (6) years with a fine of not less than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00).

‘*Simplify*’ requirements and processes was the marching order of President Duterte during his last State of the Nation Address, and ARTA is at full speed in implementing the landmark legislation.

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