



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Finance  
**INSURANCE COMMISSION**  
1071 United Nations Avenue  
Manila



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**3 January 2018**

### **NO INSURANCE CLAIMS FOR LA UNION CHRISTMAS DAY COLLISION INVOLVING A PUV AND A PRIVATE JEEPNEY**

Insurance Commissioner Dennis B. Funa probed on possible insurance claims over the road collision that occurred in the early morning of Christmas Day involving a passenger bus operated by Partas Transportation and a private jeepney in Agoo, La Union.

According to reports, the untoward incident that claimed the lives of twenty (20) individuals including a five month old infant happened at 3:00 in the morning along the MacArthur Highway in Agoo, La Union. At least twenty-six (26) others were reportedly injured due to the accident.

All casualties were on board the private jeepney carrying twenty-nine (29) passengers, which was headed for Manaoag, Pangasinan. Meanwhile, the Partas bus carried thirty-one (31) passengers. Reports say that passengers of Partas bus only suffered minor injuries.

Considering that one of the parties in the collision is a public utility vehicle, Commissioner Funa urgently called on the two LTFRB-accredited consortia Passenger Accident Management and Insurance Agency, Inc. ("PAMI") and SCCI Management and Insurance Agency Corp. ("SCCI") to verify coverage under the mandatory insurance coverage for passengers of public utility vehicles under the Passenger Personal Accident Insurance Program (PPAI Program).

In particular, the Commission requested for information on insurance claims filed by Partas Transportation in connection with the injuries arising from the collision and demanded the immediate settlement thereof, if any.

"Based on our verification, Partas Transportation is insured with the insurance consortium managed by PAMI. According to PAMI, they were informed by Partas that the latter shall no longer be filing for insurance claims in connection with the injuries sustained by its passengers," said Commissioner Funa.

He added, "According to PAMI, Partas will no longer file any insurance claim as there are only a few of its passengers that were injured and these involved very minor injuries."

In a letter dated 29 December 2017 addressed to the Insurance Commission, PAMI said "As to Partas Bus, we were advised that only few passengers were affected and they only sustained very minor injuries. Partas indicated that they have no intention to claim although we insisted for them to file a claim should there be any medical expenses incurred for their said passengers arising from the incident."

PAMI nevertheless assured that should Partas later decide to file a claim for medical expenses for the reported minor injuries sustained by their passengers, they shall immediately file the appropriate report before the Insurance Commission.

Commissioner Funa clarified that the passenger jeepney, being a private vehicle, is not mandated and thus does not hold the mandatory insurance coverage for its passengers.

Under the present PPAI Program, the cash benefit for medical treatment ranges from P5,000.00 to P20,000.00 while the cash benefit for other disabilities shall be in accordance with the schedule of disabilities approved by the LTFRB and the Insurance Commission.

Recently, the Insurance Commission received a proposal to increase the benefits under the PPAI Program including the increase in the maximum amount of medical benefit from P20,000.00 to P100,000.00.

  
**ATTY. JOANNE FRANCES D.C. CASTRO**  
*Media Relations Officer*  
[jfdc.castro@insurance.gov.ph](mailto:jfdc.castro@insurance.gov.ph)