

**ALLIES TAXI SERVICE INC (ATS)**

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*To: Honorable Novelle E Francis.*

*Chairman, Committee on Budget, Appropriation and Finance*

*Other members of the committee.*

*From: Tyrone Paul , President, Allies Taxi Service Inc.*

*Re: Support for Bill No.36-0045.*

*An Act appropriating the sum of \$400,000 from the Tourism advertising revolving fund to the VI Taxicab Commission for the implementation of technological upgrades including digitization of paper records and files.*

*Good day Honorable Senators:*

*On behalf of the members of Allies Taxi Service Inc. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to put on record our support for this bill.*

*Every year each taxi driver is required to renew his or her business license at the Taxicab commission. We have to submit a tax clearance letter from The Bureau of Internal Revenue, a police record, and a traffic record. These paper documents are added to the already loaded manilla folder that contains documents from the very first day he or she became a taxi driver, which for many drivers can be several decades.*

*Just to upgrade from an older vehicle to a newer vehicle, drivers have to remove the plates from the old vehicle and turn them in to the Taxicab Commission office before being able to request a letter which can take several days and many trips to the office to see if it's ready. That letter has to be then taken with other documents to the Bureau of Motor Vehicle in order to register the new vehicle. The new registration has to be then taken back to Taxicab Commission for them to put a copy in the manilla folder before your plates are given back to you. All this paperwork and back and forth causes unnecessary inconvenience as well as frustration and creates the possibility of misunderstanding, mistakes, misplaced documents and an overall unpleasant experience for both the driver and the employees at the Taxicab Commission office.*

*With the implementation of technological upgrades including digitization of paper records and files all this will be eliminated with a system that has the capability to interconnect with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.*

*We are humbly asking all senators for a favorable consideration of this bill.*

THANK YOU.

*With best regards.*

*Tyrone Paul*