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S E N A T E
P. S. Res No. 411

RECEI- 19 1°

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS IN COORDINATION WITH THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE, DEVELOP, AND IMPROVE BICYCLE LANES IN METRO MANILA FOR THE DURATION OF THE COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

WHEREAS, means of transportation remain limited in various parts of the country as part of the counter measures adopted by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines provides that public transportation shall be suspended and only company shuttles and government point-to-point transport services are allowed;

WHEREAS, with the lifting of certain restrictions and the permission given to identified industries resulting from the modification of the rules of the community quarantine in Metro Manila, there would be an influx of commuters who would now need to use the existing limited transportation services to enable them to report back to their respective work places;

WHEREAS, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board estimates that there will be over two million commuters that are expected to avail of public transportation in Metro Manila as it transitions to General Community Quarantine;

WHEREAS, the existing public transportation services allowed in Metro Manila are not enough to serve the returning workers and there is a need to find innovative ways to safely meet their transportation needs;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in Section 3.12 of its Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines provided that the use of bikes and other non-motorized transportation is strongly encouraged;

WHEREAS, the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic to which the Philippines is a signatory to and which we have made part of our laws by virtue of PD No. 207 in 1973 provides that contracting parties shall be bound to admit to their territories in international traffic cycles and mopeds which fulfil the technical conditions laid down in the Convention shall not require the drivers of cycles or mopeds in international traffic to hold a driving permit;

WHEREAS, in a study conducted by the Pew Research Center, in the Philippines, only 6% of Filipinos own cars while 24% have bicycles;

WHEREAS, citizen groups have claimed that motor vehicles, especially private cars, occupy the roads more than pedestrians and cyclists and have been pushing for a more equitable Road Sharing Principle that protects citizens' health and make the air less polluted;

WHEREAS, there are existing PUV and bus lanes within Metro Manila that are currently unused because of the suspension of public transportation which can be converted into bicycle lanes;

WHEREAS, by encouraging the use of bicycles, the government would be able to address the transportation requirements during this pandemic and as well as improve overall health by reducing air pollution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Public Works and Highways in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to designate, develop, and improve bicycle lanes in Metro Manila for the duration of the Community Quarantine.

Adopted,