

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 176

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, INTO THE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTED BY OUR GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE USE TRICYCLES AND PEDICABS RUNNING ALONG OUR MAJOR THOROUGHFARES AND ARTERIALS ROADS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUTING PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the tricycle is a Philippine transportation vehicle that is so versatile. It is adaptable in rural and urban applications. It can serve passengers rain or shine. It can take one to several street corners, the next town, or even the next city or province for the right contract fare. This Philippine transportation three-wheeled vehicle can traverse highways, city streets, inner roads, alleys, dirt paths, and even in places where there are no identifiable pathways;

WHEREAS, normally, a tricycle can accommodate four (4) passengers (including the driver), if safety measures are considered. But often one will see this Philippine transportation vehicle carrying 10 to 20 passengers, mostly daring students or youths, squeezed in the sidecar and at the backseat behind the driver, some hanging from the rear and side of the sidecar and more atop its roof;

WHEREAS, this Philippine transportation mini vehicle is also capable of carrying loads of market goods, hardware, or furniture and appliances. Tricycles even act as ambulances carrying patients or the injured to hospitals;

WHEREAS, nowadays, the scene of tricycles and pedicabs plying along our national arterials roads and highways is a common occurrence. These vehicles not only slow down traffic but also put both the drivers and the passengers in unnecessary danger. Tricycles are commonly seen our major arterial roads leading a train of cars, buses, and trucks behind them, which often cannot overtake and have to keep pace with them;

WHEREAS, since 1990, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) issued the 1990 Metro Manila Council (MMC) Ordinance prohibiting tricycles and pedicabs (bicycles with sidecars) to ply on major roads and thoroughfares in order to decongest traffic and protect the safety of the commuting public. Said Ordinance was approved by 17 Metro Manila Mayors and imposes a penalty of a fine of Php300.00 or a 10-day imprisonment for its violators;

WHEREAS, last February 2010, the MMDA – Traffic Operations Center (TOC) has ordered the arrest and impoundment for 30 days for all tricycles and pedicabs who operate outside of their franchise routes and are seen on highways and other major roads;

WHEREAS, nationwide, tricycles constitute nearly one-third of the total registered motor vehicle population and are a vital means of transportation for millions;

WHEREAS, some sectors in our society argue that the ban for tricycles on our major thoroughfares is illegal under existing law and threatens public safety by forcing all tricycles to use alternative roadways that are clearly not as safe as our highways which by design are free of the many hazards or obstructions that most often contribute to vehicular accidents (e.g., high-traffic intersections, road islands, opposing traffic, poorly designated PUV passenger loading and unloading zones, and pedestrians);

WHEREAS, some sectors argue that the ban for tricycles on our major thoroughfares does not define a standard for vehicle operation but is merely an absolute restriction on its use which implies therefore that tricycles, no matter what their condition or capability, are far too dangerous for use on public roads, a concept clearly inconsistent with the registration of motorcycles and the licensing of motorcyclists by the LTO;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need on the part of the government to clarify its policies, rules and regulations regarding the plying of tricycles and pedicabs along our national arterials roads and highways in order to provide order into our traffic laws and protect the safety of our commuting public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services, and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an Inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the policies and regulations implemented by our government with regards to the use of tricycles and pedicabs running along our major thoroughfares and arterials roads, with the end in view of protecting the health and safety of our commuting public.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 