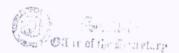
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Third Regular Session



SENATE S. No. <u>2056</u>

18 OCT -8 A10:09

REC:

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE TRANSITION FOR PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE (PUV) MODERNIZATION, WITH TRANSITORY ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES RENDERED TO PUV DRIVERS, OPERATORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Naniniwala ako na kaya nating magtayo ng ligtas, mahusay at makabagong sistema ng transportasyon na ikatutuwa ng mga pasahero, pati na ng mga tsuper.

Tuwing may nakakausap akong kababayan na kakabalik lang mula abroad, madalas kong naririnig ang reklamo sa trapik at sa mababang kalidad ng ating pampublikong transportasyon. Kung kaya nga naman ng ibang bansa tulad ng Japan o Singapore na magtayo ng mahusay na sistema ng tren at bus, bakit hindi natin magawa dito sa Pilipinas?

Nais natin umunlad at umasenso ang mga sistema ng jeepney at tricycle, bus at tren sa bansa – at naniniwala akong may kakayahan tayong gawin ito. Ngunit kailangan din natin siguraduhin na sa programang ito, walang masasagasaang Pilipino.

While we move toward building safer, more efficient and environmentally sustainable public transport systems, we must ensure that the livelihood of our

countrymen – the drivers, operators, and their respective families – are not collateral damage.

As such, we propose the passage of the Just Transitory Modernization of Public Utility Vehicles Act, a measure that will bring our transport system into the future while providing security of tenure and just compensation to PUV drivers and operators.

Through this measure, we can encourage drivers and operators to purchase new vehicles with reasonable loan and payment options, phase out vehicles over 20 years in operation, engine replacement only for those still proven and tested to be road worthy and provide sufficient compensation and financial assistance to those that wish to shift careers.

Tuwing may nakakausap akong mga driver at operator ng public utility vehicles (PUVs), madalas kong naririnig ang hangarin nilang pagandahin ang kanilang serbisyo at maging mas moderno. Ngunit sa hirap ng buhay at pangangailangan ng pamilya, wala silang kakayahan na gumastos para sa pagbabago.

Alisin natin ang pasan na ito para maging kasangga natin ang mga drivers at operators ng PUVs sa pinapangarap nating pagbabago. Ipasa po natin ang panukalang ito.

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Makatarungang Transisyon Tungo sa Modernisasyon."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State, in accordance with the Constitution, that the right to travel shall not be impaired, be it due to lack of means, access, or capability to pay of the general public. Public transportation and mobility, therefore, is a sector that should be developed, modernized and sustained by the State based on principles of justice, equity and ecological sustainability.

At the same time, the State acknowledges the transportation sector as both public service and enterprise. As an enterprise employing labor, deemed by law as the primary social economic force, the State must protect the rights of workers within the transportation service industry and promote their welfare. Towards this

end, the State shall encourage the creation of a people-centered strategy that represents the core of economic and social development. It therefore ensures that the transportation sector develops and modernizes not just technologically, but also in accordance with principles of justice and equity, promoting full, productive employment and decent work for all.

Sec. 3. Objectives. – This Act shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To make public ground transportation safer, more comfortable, and environmentally sustainable for the riding public through the modernization of Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs) while ensuring that the security of tenure of long-standing drivers in the PUV industry will be protected and that their right to work until retirement will not be compromised;
- (b) To provide means of support to drivers who can no longer take part in the PUV sector due to various reasons, including those who choose to pursue work in a different sector and thus require retraining and reskilling;
- (c) To guarantee genuine and fair competition and a level playing field within the PUV sector.

Sec. 4. PUV Modernization Program (PUVMP). - A PUV Modernization Program is hereby established in order to enhance the safety, efficiency and sustainability of public ground transportation. The Department of Transportation (DOTr), in consultation with other concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall develop and promulgate guidelines and policies for the phased transition from the current PUVs to standards-compliant vehicles. The DOTr shall also provide for consultation and policy-making spaces through which stakeholders in the process can provide recommendations and reform options to DOTr and other relevant government agencies.

1 Sec. 5. Engine and Replacement Specifications. -2 (a) Jeepney units tested and proven to be road-worthy by the DOTr and Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) shall only be required to have engines replaced to be 4 5 Euro 4 compliant. (b) The remaining budget under DTI's Comprehensive Automotive 6 Resurgence Strategy (CARS) program shall be used to incentivize 7 and support the creation and assembly of locally manufactured 8 9 jeepney units and parts. (c) Only emission testing centers duly authorized by the DTI, and which 10 11 follow the standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and DOTr shall be used in registering of 12 13 jeepney models and in regular emission testing. 14 (d) DOTr shall plan for a phased implementation of the program 15 following a five (5) year transition period. 16 Sec. 6. Financial Assistance. -17 (a) Government Subsidy - Government financial assistance provided to drivers/operators shall not be lower than 20% of the price per unit 18 19 to lighten the capital burden of modernization. 20 (b) Loan Interest/Payment Options 21 i. A tripartite mechanism involving government, financing institutions and transport workers shall be established to set 22 23 policies for the loan program and to address unresolved issues 24 on implementation. Loan requirements shall be simplified and 25 tailored to the current situation and standing of jeepney drivers 26 and operators. ii. The interest rate on loan amortization shall not exceed 3% 27 28 diminishing annual interest considering the mass/public nature 29 of jeepney transport services. 30 iii. The loan amortization period shall be at least fifteen (15) years;

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subject to re-computation once a driver/operator decides to

shorten the said period or is able to pay in full before its maturity.

Sec. 7. *Compensation Option.* – A driver who can no longer take part in the PUV sector due to, but not limited to, retirement, economic incapacity and failure to qualify for a loan contract, shall be given financial assistance of no less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) to enable the driver to venture into other forms of livelihood.

- Sec. 8. *PUV Sector Competitiveness Enhancement*. To prevent unwanted competition between drivers and operators planning on operating in the same area, a "first usage"/"first presence" policy shall be implemented. Long-term existing/residential operators/drivers within a particular area shall be given priority in route assignment.
- Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, in consultation with LTFRB and other relevant government agencies and transport sector groups, shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.
- Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
- Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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