A RESOLUTION URGING THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (IATF-EID) TO RECONSIDER THE REQUIRED USE OF MOTORCYCLE BARRIERS FOR BACK-RIDING COUPLES AND SET-ASIDE ITS POLICY PENDING INQUIRY ON ITS SAFETY

WHEREAS, IATF-EID has authorized pillion rides for couples provided that they install a protective shield that separates the passenger and the driver as a precautionary measure to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. This regulation has caused a public outcry, particularly from motorcycle owners and associations, who argue that the aforementioned barrier could pose potential perils to its users.

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2020, the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, Inc. (MDPPA), an organization of motorcycle manufacturers, released a statement explaining that the required barriers “will negatively affect stability and handling of a motorcycle. Thus, inevitably compromising safety of its occupants.”

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2020, the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers (PSME) released a position paper opposing the decision of IATF-EID. Jeffrey Singson, president of PSME, explained that their opposition is based on “the science and engineering of how air interacts with moving bodies” or technically called aerodynamics. He further elaborated that “when the motorcycle is in motion, the barrier will contribute to the change of the designed allowable aerodynamic forces or its drag and lift, which will compromise the stability of the motorcycle. Hence, placing the safety of the riders at risk.”

WHEREAS, while there is a significant need to protect people from the current virus, it is also prudent to listen to expert advice to ensure that the policies that the government is advocating for are proven and research-based to avoid compromising public safety.

WHEREAS, it has been observed by many that notwithstanding the aforesaid policy, several employees/personnel of government agencies and instrumentalities back-ride in motorcycles without the required protective shield.

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WHEREAS, the government shall recognize, now, more than ever, the additional burden that the implementation of the said policy will put on people considering the cost that it will require our riders to spend in order to comply with it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urge the IATF-EID to reconsider the required use of motorcycle barriers for back-riding couples and set-aside its policy pending inquiry on its safety.

Adopted, August 10, 2020

[Signature]

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