Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1254

Introduced by
Bayan Muna Representative FERDINAND R. GAITE,
Manila 6th District Representative BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE JR.,
Quezon City 6th District Representative JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE,
Bayan Muna Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
Gabriela Women’s Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,
ACT Teachers Party-List Representative FRANCIS L. CASTRO,
and Kabataan Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO,

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND FULL LIFTING OF THE BAN ON THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY JEEPNEYS

WHEREAS, on 17 March 2020, the operations of mass public transportation including trains, buses, and jeepneys were suspended after the whole of Luzon was placed by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) under an enhanced community quarantine or ECQ to curb the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, a total of 75,000 traditional jeepney plying an estimated total of 900 routes all over Metro Manila were affected by the suspension of mass public transport;

WHEREAS, on 1 June 2020, as Metro Manila was placed under general community quarantine or GCQ, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) implemented the 1st phase of the gradual resumption of operations of mass public transport by allowing train and bus augmentation, bus augmentation units, taxis and Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS), shuttle services, point-to-point buses, and bicycles;

WHEREAS, on 22 June 2020; the DOTr implemented the 2nd phase of the gradual resumption of operations of mass public transport by allowing public utility buses (PUBs), modern public utility vehicles (PUVs), and UV Express;

WHEREAS, on 28 June 2020, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-026 or the Guidelines for the Operations of Traditional Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs) During the Period of General Community Quarantine (GCQ) in Metro Manila which allowed the resumption of operations of 6,002 units of traditional jeepneys servicing 49 routes;

WHEREAS, on 3 August 2020, the LTFRB issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-029A opening 15 more routes to allow the resumption of operation of an additional 968 traditional jeepney units;
WHEREAS, on 4 September 2020; the LTFRB issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-043 opening 10 more routes to allow the resumption of operation of 1,006 traditional jeepney units;

WHEREAS, on 11 September 2020, the LTFRB issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-043 opening 28 more routes to allow the resumption of operation of 1,159 traditional jeepney units;

WHEREAS, the LTFRB said that as of 18 September 2020, 206 traditional PUJ routes have been opened or around 23 percent of the more than 900 existing routes, which allowed the resumption of operations of 17,372 traditional jeepney units or around 23 percent of the total 75,000 traditional jeepney units in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, even with the phased reopening of routes, gradual increase in the number of operating jeepney units, and the introduction of "modern jeeps" the number of available public transportation units remain lacking and has thus caused hardships among commuters and buildup of waiting passengers in certain areas;

WHEREAS, Section 4. (fff) of Republic Act 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act states that "(...) there shall be no phase-out, at the national and local level, of any modality of public utility vehicle as the industry transitions to a new normal. ";

WHEREAS, transport groups continue to urge the government to implement a full resumption of operations or "100% Balik-Pasada" citing amongst others the need to expand mass public transport services that could cater to an increasing number of commuters resulting from the reopening of the economy, and the need to address the worsening economic plight of jeepney drivers and operators that have been grounded since the start of the community quarantine;

WHEREAS, in their respective findings and guidelines, medical researchers from the University of Amsterdam, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control mentioned the reduced risk of viral spread in well ventilated open-air vehicles;

WHEREAS, jeepney operators and drivers have shown their willingness and capability to innovate and implement health and safety measures to protect their patrons from the virus such as the installment of plastic seat dividers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives call for the immediate lifting of the suspension of operation of public utility jeepsneys and the full resumption of operation of all registered units in all routes.

Adopted,

[Signatures]

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR
Manila, 6th District
REP. JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE
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