

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 533



Introduced by REP. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.

**A RESOLUTION
APPEALING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO IMPLEMENT
ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, THE PROPOSAL OF A "FOUR-DAY WORK
WEEK"**

WHEREAS, the holiday rush and SEA games on 30 November 2019 to 11 December 2019 will worsen the already traffic congested roads that is causing stress, anxiety, low productivity, exposure to high carbon emission, high gas consumption and precious time away from family to thousands of Filipinos.

WHEREAS, as far back as 2017, a study by the Boston Consulting Group have shown that we have the third longest traffic wait time in Asia at sixty-six (66) minutes as compared to Singapore's thirty (30) minutes. During the same year, the Straits Times reported that, "During rush hour in metropolitan Manila, the number of vehicles far exceed the roads' maximum capacity, totalling 1.75 times what the roads can handle. It takes 2.3 times longer to travel during this time."

WHEREAS, in the same Straits news article, it was estimated that Filipinos lose 16 days a year in traffic that translates to One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) in lost productivity each year. Moreover, "Road congestion costs Asian economies an estimated 2 to 5% of gross domestic product each year due to lost time and higher transport costs", quoting Laurence Cua who cited an Asian Development Bank report.

WHEREAS, from 2017 up to the present, the traffic problem in the Philippines has worsened. Although there are pending bills in Congress proposing for a "four day work week", the same are still pending at the Committee level and might take a long period of time before the same could be approved.

WHEREAS, the problem of traffic congestion that is already plaguing the country and causing a heavy burden to our fellow Filipinos can not wait for the "four day work week" bill to be passed into law.

WHEREAS, Filipino employers, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Makati Business Club as well as public officials are strongly urged to think, adopt and employ bold solutions such as implementing "four day work week" and "work anywhere" schemes to help ease the burden of traffic congestion at least during this holiday and SEA Games season.

WHEREAS, the "four-day work week" and "work anywhere" are a growing albeit radical trend in New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom and other parts of the world as a result of studies that greater work-life balance makes for more productive employees, less stress, a spreading out of the benefits of new technologies, less hours on the road, decrease in energy consumption and transportation cost, more savings and a better quality of life.

WHEREAS, in this highly internet connected world and by adopting practices that to many have become the new normal, (i.e. going early to work, leaving work late to avoid the traffic, combining meal breaks with work tasks, working anywhere) a "four-day work week" and "work anywhere" need not reduce the country's 40 hour work week.

WHEREAS, it is suggested that government employees shall work from Monday to Thursday from six in the morning (6:00am) to seven in the evening (7:00pm) while employees in the private sector shall work from Tuesday to Friday, ten (10) hours a day to complete a forty (40) hours work a week.

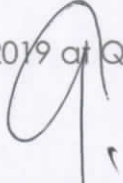
WHEREAS, the above mentioned sheme would tremendously reduce the number of vehicles and commuters on Mondays and Fridays since there will be no employees from the private sector on Mondays and government employees on Fridays.

WHEREAS, both the House of Representatives and Senate are on a "four-day work week" schedule and it is urged that the same should be implemented in other government and private offices as well.

WHEREAS, the adoption of the "four-day work week" will provide a longer period of rest days that can be spent on quality time with families and as backed by studies, a better work-life balance, reduction in the number of vehicles on our roads, gas, electricity, water and other utilities consumption and expenses, stress, meals and transportation costs while the same would increase, productivity, job satisfaction, teamwork, company loyalty, better health and overall happiness among Filipinos.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to adopt, the "four-day work week" at an experimental stage for the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), House of Representatives and its respective appropriate committees particularly the Committee on Transportation, Committee on Health, Committee on Labor, Committee on Local Government and Committee on Economic Affairs to jointly conduct a hearing to determine the merits of a "four-day work week" for the protection of the general welfare and interests of Filipinos.

Done this 18th day of November, 2019 at Quezon City.



REP. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Lone District of the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite