



DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	Discussion with concerned government agencies on their respective plans for the transportation sector under the post-enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) period	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Western Samar), discussed with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and its attached agencies their respective plans for the transportation sector under the post-ECQ period.</p> <p>DOTr officials who apprised the Committee of the Department's plans upon the lifting of the ECQ or the shift to the general community quarantine (GCQ) were Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan, Assistant Secretary Mark Richmond De Leon, and Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Mark Steven Pastor.</p> <p>The DOTr gave assurance that the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) systems are ready to resume operations after the ECQ, with just the protocols on social distancing being fine-tuned.</p> <p>Right now, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Philippine National Police (PNP) are working together to ensure a smooth and orderly resumption of public transportation operations under the GCQ. A memorandum circular prescribing the guidelines on the resumption of public transport operations during the post-ECQ period will be issued.</p> <p>The DOTr also presented its subsidy and loan assistance programs for operators to help them recoup their losses and jumpstart their businesses. The DOTr is proposing a 30% fuel subsidy for drivers and a stimulus package for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) amounting to P651 million.</p> <p>LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra III said that during the GCQ, the operation of trains, buses and jeepneys, and UV Express will be allowed. However, these public transports shall only accommodate 50% of their maximum passenger capacity. Likewise, only 29 of the existing 96 bus routes will be reopened and only 600 buses will be allowed to operate.</p> <p>An automated fare collection system is also being considered to minimize direct physical contacts and lessen the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Delgra also said that operators will be required to conduct testing of their drivers for COVID-19 as a public safety measure.</p> <p>With regard to the operations of tricycles, taxis, and transport network vehicle services (TNVS), Delgra said that these will be allowed but with a much reduced passenger capacity, as follows: tricycles will be allowed to carry a maximum of one passenger, while taxis and TNVS will be allowed to carry a maximum of two passengers. However, he stressed that motorcycle taxis will still be banned from the streets as these cannot comply with social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>LTO Chief Edgar Galvante reported that the issuance and renewal of drivers' licenses will resume under GCQ period.</p> <p>Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City) mentioned the recent comment made by DILG Secretary Eduardo Año on the</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<p>possibility of lifting the ECQ in San Juan City and Valenzuela City and shifting the status to GCQ. Rep. Gatchalian said that health issues in these cities will still arise because as businesses resume operations, their cargoes will have to pass through areas under ECQ. These businesses also have employees living outside the Cities of Valenzuela and San Juan which are still under ECQ and they will be coming in and out of the two cities.</p> <p>DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III replied that indeed the ideal scenario is to promulgate policies common to the NCR and not on a per locality basis. Nevertheless, he said an executive order will be issued next week which will provide guidelines on the movement of people and the list of authorized persons outside of residence under a post-ECQ period.</p> <p>Delgra said that the LTFRB encourages private businesses to provide free shuttle service for their employees in areas under GCQ.</p> <p>On the suggestion of Rep. Sarmiento to conduct a dry-run of the public land transportation service prior to the lifting of the ECQ, De Leon said that it is possible.</p> <p>Rep. Cristal Bagatsing (5th District, Manila) asked if there are penalties against operators violating physical distancing measures. Delgra responded that a fine of P5,000 will be imposed for the first offense and P10,000 for the second offense. Suspension and cancellation of licenses will also be imposed for grave offenses.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) inquired if proper monitoring is being conducted to ensure that subsidies under the social amelioration program are being distributed to the drivers heavily affected by the lockdown.</p> <p>Delgra said that the DOTr and the LTFRB are in close coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development in terms of validating qualified drivers.</p> <p>On the plans of the aviation sector after the lifting of the ECQ, Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Eddie Monreal said that biosecurity and health and safety standards shall be strictly implemented at the airports in accordance with standards set by international health organizations such as the World Health Organization.</p> <p>Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines Director General Jim Sydiongco recommended the resumption of domestic flights particularly for destinations declared under GCQ.</p>
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