HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Reso No. 1007

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE TO SUSPEND THE REQUIREMENT OF EMISSIONS TESTING IN THE REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2020

WHEREAS, Section 21 of Republic Act No. 8749 or the "Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999" provides that "The DOTC shall implement the emission standards for motor vehicles set pursuant to and as provided in this Act. To further improve the emission standards, the Department shall review, revise and publish the standards every two (2) years, or as the need arises. It shall consider the maximum limits for all major pollutants to ensure substantial improvement in air quality for the health, safety and welfare of the general public;"

WHEREAS, Section 22 of the same law provides that, "No motor vehicle registration (MVR) shall be issued unless such motor vehicle passes the emission testing requirement promulgated in accordance with this Act. Such testing shall be conducted by the DOTC or its authorized inspection centers within sixty (60) days prior to date of registration";

WHEREAS, as a result of the law, Private emission testing centers (PETCs) were put up to provide emission testing for owners of motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic affected and disrupted the lives of all Filipinos;

WHEREAS, as a result of lockdowns and quarantines in many parts of the country, many transactions with the government were halted including the registration of vehicles;

WHEREAS, as a result, with the easing of the travel restrictions and the quarantines, many vehicles owners are now having their vehicles registered resulting in very long lines and unusual delays in the process of registration, especially in the emissions testing centers;

WHEREAS, this lines and delays result in, most of the time, violations of social distancing protocols which could eventually lead to a possible increase in COVID-19 cases;
WHEREAS, an example is Cagayan de Oro City where complaints have been piling up because what is happening is that owners of motor vehicle have to line up very early in the morning in order to get a number which they get after lining up for 4-5 hours and then they wait until their number is called and they will be given an appointment for their emissions test which is at least 2 weeks away;

WHEREAS, to address this and to make it easier for vehicle owners, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Land Transporation Office (LTO) could suspend the emissions testing requirement until the end of the year;

WHEREAS, this will also give the DOTr and the LTO time to look into the numerous complaints and allegations of impropriety against PETCs all over the country;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to urge the Department of Transportation and the Land Transportation Office to suspend the requirement of emissions testing in the registration of vehicles until December 31, 2020

Adopted,

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ