

## **MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (PUVMP)**

We, the undersigned, represent the 1,739 cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority and accredited with the Office of Transportation Cooperatives currently engaged in transportation services and operating throughout the Philippines, representing 262,653 members, of which 12,948 are also employed as drivers, public assistance officers, or allied services workers. Together with other consolidated transport service entities, we operate 146,897 units, both traditional and modern, that service passengers utilizing 7,149 routes in 16 regions, comprising seventy-six percent (76%) of all public utility jeep drivers and operators in the country.

This is our compliance to the beck and call of the government to gear the cooperative system towards the integration and rationalization of the public transit and transport system in line Memorandum Order No. 395, promulgated in 19 October 1973, which is the basis of the transport cooperative program and the predecessor of the PUVMP. Half a decade later, our public transport service continues to deteriorate and modernization efforts are still being stalled.

We are drivers and operators who, throughout the seven (7) years of the implementation of the PUVMP, have heeded the call of the government to consolidate our franchises modernize the public transportation sector. We are the first to recognize that the PUVMP has not been perfect in its implementation. Nevertheless, we have committed ourselves to take part in the advancement of the PUVMP because we recognize the grave importance and urgent necessity of radically shifting the public transportation sector so as to fundamentally improve the commuter experience. We dare say that this is ultimately for the future generation, that they may experience the reality of convenient public transportation.

We believe that the Filipino public deserves comfortable, affordable, safe, reliable, and efficient public transport service. We believe that commuting, in and of itself, should be the most viable mode of transportation for our citizens. We reject the notion that public transportation must be an option of last resort—a daily trial that exacerbates, instead of improves, the commuter experience. We further believe that public utility drivers deserve regular wages complete with benefits and security of tenure. We reject the “boundary” system that forces drivers to ply roads in unsafe conditions. We believe

that drivers and the riding public alike should not settle for a broken public transportation system that seems to inflict additional punishment among its users.

Thus, despite its flaws and hardships, we complied with the directive of the government to consolidate and begin the process of modernizing the public transportation sector. Throughout this entire endeavor, we have never waived in our fundamental belief in the tenets of the program—that the Filipino public deserves better.

We are, therefore, disheartened by the continued attempts to vilify the program by the few who have consistently and repeatedly refused to take the first step in the modernization effort despite having been graced with numerous extensions over the past seven (7) years. It should be noted that around 60% to 70% percent of PUV operators and drivers have already committed or have already consolidated under the PUVMP. Continuous delay of the PUMVP's implementation is detrimental to the livelihood of compliant drives and operators, especially since in compliance with the program, we have initially undertaken greater financial burden in order to invest in modernizing our fleets.

It is as if we, who have actually complied, are the ones being continuously punished and being left behind for abiding by and following the rules and regulations set by the government. It has been frustrating to witness misinformation spread, especially about the phase-out of the traditional jeepney seemingly being the main point of modernization.

More than amending the current design of public transportation vehicles to provide better safety, accessibility, and comfort to the riding public, the PUVMP aims to rationalize and organize routes and stops, as well as to develop a fleet management system in order to ensure systematic public transport availability and flow of traffic, among others, which will ultimately enhance the commuting experience.

We recognize that the PUVMP is not perfect. Nevertheless, it remains the best and most feasible course of action to improve the state of the public transportation in the country. In fact, the Department of Transportation and its implementation partners have continuously engaged the transport sector and have worked hand in hand with us to further enhance the Program. To continuously delay its progress, or call for its

cessation, is to essentially forsake those of us who abided by and supported the efforts of the government. More importantly, it shall doom the public to a crumbling transportation system that patently inadequate and detrimental to economic progress.

Thus, we call on the President for a firm political will and to be steadfast in his commitment to serve the Filipino public by revolutionizing and reforming the public transportation sector. We call on the Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and other relevant agencies to collectively display focus and resolute leadership in order to find ways and means to enhance the implementation of the PUVMP. Specifically, we urge them to direct and assist LGUs for the expedited crafting and issuance of the route rationalization plans as they are key and core components of the Program.

Moreover, we call on the LGUs for a more consultative preparation and finalization of LPTRPs with the affected transport service entities. Further, we call the relevant financial institutions, both government and private, to streamline the requirements and expedite the processing of loan applications for the acquisition of modern units as well as to release the equity subsidies in a timely and efficient manner.

We implore our consolidated entities—do not be disheartened. Let us combat the fake news and misinformation being peddled by those few who have ultimate political agenda in derailing the PUVMP. Let us not waver in our efforts to show the gains of consolidation and, ultimately, modernization. We call on our colleagues in the transport sector who have yet to embrace PUVMP—this is now our time to heed the call of our government for the brighter future of the next generation.

Finally, we respectfully call on Congress to exercise its power to enact legislation that will institutionalize the PUVMP, taking into account the amendments and conditions necessary to improve its scope and implementation, including the provision of technical and financial support to the local automotive manufacturing industry in order to broaden the positive economic impact of the Program to the Filipino people, thereby further developing a just, humane, and modernized transportation system.

To all Transport Service Entities, VENCEREMOS!!!



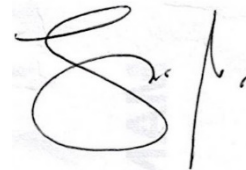
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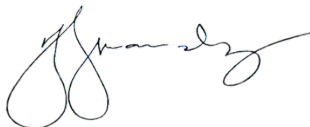
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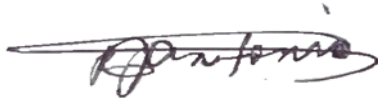
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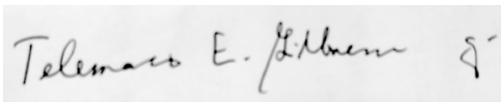
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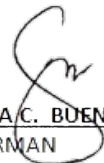


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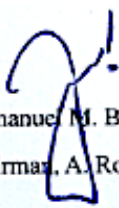


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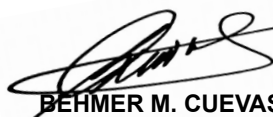


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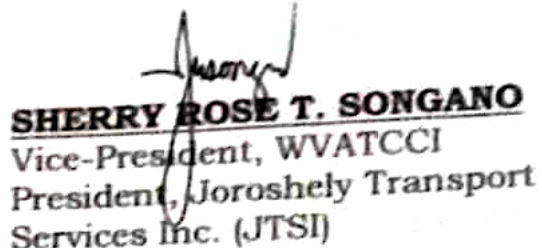
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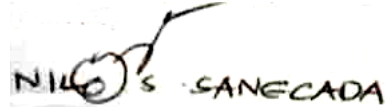
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