Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1003

INTRODUCED BY HON. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA

A RESOLUTION

URGING AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) AND LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) TO EXPEDITE THE RELEASE OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS AND ESTABLISH AND DISSEMINATE PROCEDURES FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, the Philippines, along with the entire world, is currently battling an unprecedented global Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that has already infected more than 27,238 people and killed at least 1,108 people in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, in response to the pandemic, the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines issued Proclamation Nos. 929 declaring a countrywide state of calamity and 922 (s. 2020) declaring a state of public health emergency through the Philippines, and Congress passed Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”, to address the sharp increase of number of COVID-19 cases throughout the country;

WHEREAS, as part of the response to the pandemic, public transportation was halted during the community lockdowns and public transportation drivers were obligated to stay home, negatively impacting the livelihood of approximately 80,000 drivers of TNVS vehicles, 20,000 bus drivers, and at least 170,000 jeepney drivers and their families;

WHEREAS, to support public transportation drivers during the period that public transportation was suspended, a Joint Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) with the DSWD, LTFRB, and Landbank of the Philippines (LBP) to provide financial assistance to public transportation drivers;

WHEREAS, the LTFRB and DSWD have initially released cash assistance for public transportation drivers in April of 2020;

WHEREAS, more than three (3) months after the ECQ was declared, there have been reports that many public transportation drivers have still not received any financial
assistance to help alleviate their financial difficulties during this health crisis, due to procedures established by the departments and government bodies directed to facilitate the distribution of financial assistance;

WHEREAS, due to the community quarantine measures currently put in place, compounded by the delayed release of financial assistance to the public transport sector, numerous public transportation drivers are now in dire financial straits and are unable to support themselves and their families;

WHEREAS, there have been recorded incidents where public utility drivers have resorted to begging on the streets to feed themselves and their families during the present global pandemic;

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State to ensure that those who form an important part of society and who have served the public by being the foundation of public transportation in the country, be provided with financial assistance in a timely manner;

WHEREAS, there is a need to expedite the release of financial assistance to public transportation drivers, especially in light of numerous reports of failure to receive the same;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, in support of our public transportation drivers who have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, that the DSWD and LTFRB be urged and directed to expedite the release of the financial assistance due to public transportation drivers;

BE IT RESOLVED further, that the DSWD and LTFRB be directed to ensure the proper dissemination of the criteria and procedures necessary to obtain financial assistance, the officers responsible in each department and/or agency for disbursing the same, and the maximum time for processing and releasing the aforementioned financial assistance in line with the standards set forth in Republic Act 9485 (Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007) and its implementing rules and regulations;

BE IT RESOLVED finally, that to ensure transparency and accountability in the process, that the concerned departments, agencies, and government bodies in charge of facilitating the provision of financial assistance, institute a procedure for filing complaints on non-receipt of financial assistance or requests for financial assistance, and a mechanism for addressing the same within a definite period.

Adopted,

CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA