

The Case for Sustainable Transportation in the Philippines: Identifying Opportunities and Gaps in the Law

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The government has been pushing for the modernization of the transportation industry by enacting various laws and regulations aimed to create opportunities to facilitate sustainable transportation. The Author begins this Article by listing down the different laws in the Philippines which support the use of alternative fuels. The Article then delves into the modern features of public transportation. There have been numerous regulations regarding the modernization of public transportation such as the regulations on the Bus Rapid Transit, and Premium Point-to-Point Buses. The Article also touches upon the features and relevant regulations of the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program.

Furthermore, the Article examines the advantages and benefits of electric and hybrid vehicles, as opposed to conventional vehicles powered by gasoline, diesel, or liquefied petroleum gas. The numerous advantages and benefits of the regulations issued by government agencies to promote the use of these vehicles uphold the citizens' Constitutional right to health as well as the right to a balanced and healthful ecology. However, there are still concerns regarding electric vehicles such as the high cost of using electric vehicles for public transportation, lack of charging stations, and a lack of clear regulations as to how the old vehicles would be disposed.

The Article recommends that the equity subsidy should be increased in order to entice jeepney owners to purchase a new electric vehicle. Moreover, there should be clear regulations as to how the old vehicles would be disposed to ensure that old and polluting vehicles that are intended to be replaced would be removed from the road. Lastly, an online database of laws, regulations, policies, and legal-related information is sought for the guidance of the formulation of the legal framework on sustainable transportation.