

Gov't, private sector must work together

Royeca emphasized the importance of collaboration between the public and private sector in providing better transport options

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The traffic problem in the Philippines has become so huge that one agency cannot hope to solve it alone. The solution can only come from the collective effort of several groups — from both the government and the private sector — who work together to come up with a workable, feasible traffic plan.

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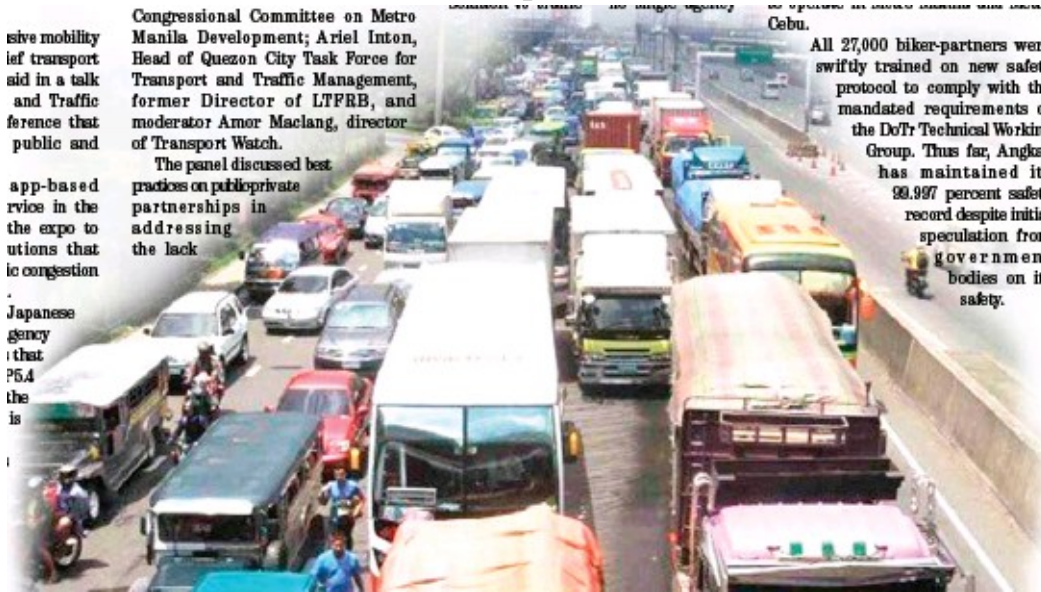
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Congressional Committee on Metro Manila Development; Ariel Inton, Head of Quezon City Task Force for Transport and Traffic Management, former Director of LTFRB, and moderator Amor Maclang, director of Transport Watch.

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This was the gist of inclusive mobility champion and Angkas chief transport advocate George Royeca said in a talk during the recent Roads and Traffic Expo — the first-ever conference that provides a platform for public and private stakeholders.

Angkas, the first app-based motorcycle ride-hailing service in the country, participated in the expo to discuss sustainable solutions that address the malignant traffic congestion problem in the Philippines.

In a study done by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the agency projects that the Philippines will lose P5.4 billion every day by 2035 if the traffic congestion problem is not properly addressed.

The two-day Roads and Traffic Expo saw discussions on holistic solutions from public and private partners that addressed not only traffic management but the entire ecosystem that led to the mismanaged state of the transport sector at present.

Royeca joined a discussion panel in the expo with Ariel Lim, former Presidential Assistant on Public Transport Affairs; Winnie Castelo, Councilor 2nd District of Quezon City, former Congressman and Chairman of Congressional Committee on Metro Manila Development; Ariel Inton, Head of Quezon City Task Force for Transport and Traffic Management, former Director of LTFRB, and moderator Amor Maclang, director of Transport Watch.

The panel discussed best practices on public-private partnerships in addressing the lack of mobility in the country's cities as well as affordable, inclusive, and efficient transport options.

During the discussion, Royeca emphasized the importance of collaboration between the public and private sector in providing better transport options. "We at Angkas are dedicated to providing a safe, reliable, and affordable transport option for everyone, and we will do whatever it takes to continue doing so," Royeca said.

"Angkas is not the be-all, end-all solution to traffic — no single agency or company can do that. But because of our current partnership with DoTr, we've shown that we can at least ease the traffic by providing an inclusive transport option," he added. Angkas, currently on a government-sanctioned pilot run, has become a case study for the successful partnership between a private enterprise and government agencies. In June 2019, Angkas was granted by the Department of Transportation a six-month trial run that legally allowed the service to operate in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

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