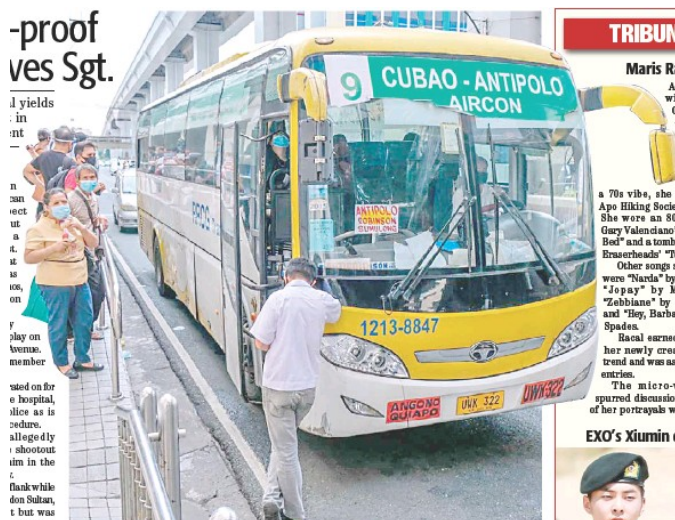


More buses ease commuters' woes

Under the agreement, the LTFRB will grant provisional authority to selected public utility vehicles to ply eight routes in QC

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The **Quezon City government** will roll out a Bus Augmentation Program on Monday under a memorandum of agreement it signed with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) designating routes and pick-up and drop-off points in the city.



Under the agreement, the LTFRB will grant provisional authority to selected public utility vehicles to ply eight routes in QC.

The routes are as follows: Quezon City Hall (QCH)-Cubao; QCH-Litex,IBP Road; Welcome Rotonda- Aurora Boulevard, Katipunan; QCH-General Luis; QCH-Mindanao Avenue/Quirino; QCH-Gilmore; QCH-C5, Ortigas and QCH-Munoz.

City Administrator Michael Alimurung said the program will be open to the public during its initial run, but it will eventually require passengers to present the soon-to-be-released QCitizen ID Card.

We also expect the program to reduce the number of private cars as motorists might opt to take our buses to their destinations.

He said the project could ease traffic congestion as the buses will only stop on designated pick-up and drop-off points along their routes.

“We also expect the program to reduce the number of private cars as motorists might opt to take our buses to their destinations,” Alimurung said.

He stressed that basic health and safety measures will be implemented, such as physical distancing, temperature checks, sanitation and filling out of contact tracing form for each passenger.

This week, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said the bus lanes in the middle of Epifanio de los Santos Avenue will remain for their exclusive use probably until next year in an effort to provide relief to commuters. The bus lane had cut end-to-end travel time along EDSA to 45 minutes from the pre-pandemic travel time of as long as three hours during the rush hour.

The MMDA also said that the numbers coding in Metro Manila will likely remain until the end of 2020 as the operations of public utility vehicles have yet to normalize. The return of the truck ban, on the other hand, will be considered upon consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry.