

QC ramps up free bus ride program

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Alimurung urged motorists to leave their vehicles at home and to patronize the bus system to reduce the volume of vehicles on the road.

With rising fuel prices and demands by transport groups for fare hikes, the **Quezon City government** over the weekend encouraged the public to avail of its program that has already provided 5.3 million passengers free bus rides since its launch on 7 December 2020.

Units under the Quezon City Bus augmentation program or Q City Bus traverse, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., eight routes every day as follows: Quezon City Hall to Cubao, Litex, General Luis, Mindanao Avenue via Visayas Avenue, Gilmore, Ortigas Avenue Extension and Munoz; and Welcome Rotonda to Aurora Boulevard, vice versa.

City Administrator Michael Alimurung said the Q City buses only stop at designated pick-up and drop-off points along their routes, thus having minimal impact on traffic congestion.

Alimurung urged motorists to leave their vehicles at home and to patronize the bus system to reduce the volume of vehicles on the road and to save on fuel expenses.

The complete list of routes, pick-up and drop-off points may be viewed on the city's official website (quezoncity.gov.ph) and Facebook page (fb.com/qcgov).

Mayor Joy Belmonte has entered with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board into a memorandum of agreement to provide the Q City buses the necessary permits to ply the said routes.

A number of bus and jeepney operators have temporarily stopped service because of diesel and gasoline price spikes this month. Motorists are shelling out an additional P13.15 per liter of diesel, P7.10 per liter of gasoline, and P10.50 for every liter of kerosene since 15 March.

The Department of Energy has projected that the pump price of gasoline could reach P86.72 per liter if the Dubai crude oil hits \$140 per barrel.

Diesel and kerosene could hit P81.10 per liter and P80.50 per liter, respectively. LPG, on the other hand, could sell for P119.53 per kilo, it added.