

Transportation Crisis as a Human Right Violation

"Tagum, Tagumpay!" represents the commitments of the political parties of Tagum City. Tagumpay means to overcome challenges and meet community needs. However, transportation and road management crisis have been overlooked despite being acknowledged— this resulted for the transportation crisis undermines our human rights.

The ongoing problem of traffic congestion has far-reaching effects, impacting not only our city but also communities throughout urban areas in the world. Some leaders argue that traffic indicates a strong economy, yet reducing congestion would empower people to participate more actively in economic activities. This dilemma highlights a pressing issue: the apparent lack of action by our government in addressing this challenge, potentially impeding what could be seen as a fundamental human right- the ability to move freely and easily.

While transportation isn't the top concern, it's time to ask our leaders to address this issue and to stop its burden effects. A transportation crisis can impact the right to basic needs in several ways. It can hinder access to essential services like healthcare, education, and food, particularly for those who rely on public transportation. Supply chains may be disrupted, leading to shortages of goods and higher prices. People might also face difficulties commuting to work, affecting their livelihoods. Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and disabled, could experience increased isolation and limited access to support services. A transportation crisis can make worse the inequalities and make it challenging for individuals to meet their basic needs.

Traffic congestion and inefficient public transportation can lead to violations of the right to education. Prolonged commuting times due to traffic can result in late attendance and missed classes for students and educators, impacting learning outcomes. In our country, the Philippines, the learning poverty rate reached 90%. Traffic-related delays can restrict students' participation in extracurricular activities, delayed completion of assignments, and contribute to stress and anxiety, adversely affecting the overall educational experience. In regions with limited transportation options, economically disadvantaged students may face even greater barriers to accessing education. This proves that the need of a decent road management is relevant and should have been an easy-access for everyone.

A transportation crisis can also lead to an increase in noise pollution, impacting society in various ways. The link between transportation and noise pollution is tied to activities like honking and engine noise from slow-moving or halted vehicles. As traffic partly shows, vehicles produce more engine noise and honking due to frustration. In areas with limited public transit, more people rely on personal vehicles, adding to road traffic and noise. People living in noisy areas may also experience lower quality of life, with less enjoyment of outdoor spaces and activities. Noise pollution tends to impact marginalized communities more, worsening social inequalities.

In essence, a transportation crisis exacerbates inequalities, limits opportunities, and curtails various human rights, ultimately hindering individuals' ability to lead fulfilling lives. It is a no banger that we deny this during this time, and to take part of our purpose, we intent to create

solutions to this worsening transport crisis that intertwined to our human rights. Promoting sustainable modes of transportation like cycling, walking, and using public transit can make a significant difference. Encouraging the use of bicycles and walking not only reduces traffic congestion but also promotes a healthier lifestyle. Additionally, supporting and advocating for improvements in public transportation systems, such as more frequent and accessible buses and trains, can make commuting easier and reduce the reliance on private vehicles.

Young individuals can play a role in advocating for better urban planning and infrastructure development. They can participate in community discussions and engage with local authorities to ensure that new developments are designed with efficient transportation options in mind. Pushing for the creation of pedestrian-friendly pathways, safe bike lanes, and well-connected public transit networks can make urban areas more accessible and livable for everyone. Embracing technology and innovation can lead to innovative and actionable solutions. Young people can develop and promote ride-sharing apps, electric car-sharing initiatives, and smart traffic management systems. By harnessing technology, they can find creative ways to optimize existing transportation resources and reduce the overall impact on the environment. In essence, by championing sustainable transportation choices, advocating for better urban planning, and leveraging technology, youth can contribute significantly to solving the transportation crisis and building a more efficient and sustainable future.

But among all of this, we must be reminded that we should urge the government to create regulations and make public transportation safe and easier, so that people would choose to ride publicly than to own a vehicle in an urban with a rising traffic density. This problem in Tagum City surely needs to be addressed as congestions during rush hours due to increasing number of private vehicles leads to violation of our human rights. Not having a proper transportation can make you feel left out from the community. You can't meet friends, go to events, or move around like you should be able to. This messes with your right to be part of society and enjoy culture. So, a transportation crisis isn't just about getting around – it violates basic human rights.

—and hopefully soon, Tagum City officials can include this on their TAGUMpay.