



MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION SHOULD BE OPTIONAL DURING PANDEMIC, AAP SAYS

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), the largest and oldest motoring club in the country, reaffirmed its position that the Private Motor Vehicle Inspection System (PMVIS) should be optional instead of an absolute prerequisite for Land Transportation Office (LTO) registration while the nation is still under lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Auto Club released this statement following news reports that the Department of Transportation issued a new memorandum circular dated July 5, 2021 setting guidelines for the LTO to only accept motor vehicle inspection reports from authorized private inspection centers in designated areas.

The primary advocate for road safety since it was founded in 1931, the AAP has observed a steady increase in the number of vehicles on the road and a rising number of road crash incidents over the years with the progressive motorization of the country. AAP believes in the proactive approach towards road safety which includes making sure that the vehicles that ply our thoroughfares are safe and roadworthy.

“An effective PMVIS can help reduce the number of road crashes caused by the defects or mechanical problems of vehicles,” AAP president Gus Lagman said. “With the equipment of government facilities becoming inadequate and obsolete, AAP understands the LTO’s move to tap partners in the private sector and establish Private Motor Vehicle Inspection Centers (PMVICs) to assess and certify the roadworthiness of vehicles.”

It is unfortunate, however, that PMVIC inspection was made an absolute prerequisite to LTO registration at high prices in the midst of a pandemic-instigated lockdown economy where millions of people including car owners have lost their jobs and/or means of income, the AAP statement noted.

Furthermore, the lack of transparency regarding the system whereby private companies were screened and chosen to set up a PMVIC, gave rise to speculation about cronyism and corruption. To make matters worse, complaints circulated on social media about mechanics bungling the use of PMVIC equipment and consequently giving even brand-new luxury automobiles a failing grade.

Last February, President Duterte responded to complaints from the public and lawmakers by ordering the LTO to suspend the PMVIS while retaining the smoke emission test as mandatory.

“AAP believes that when the economy recovers, the PMVIS should be resumed, provided that the PMVICs will be operated efficiently and will price their services reasonably,” Lagman said. “This should be preceded by an effective communication plan that drives home the importance of having one’s car professionally checked before renewing its LTO registration. The result would be safer mobility for all road users.”

AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES

10th Floor, AAP Tower, 683 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City 1112
Telephone (63.2) 705.33.33
www.aap.org.ph • info@aap.org.ph

