

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1546

RECEIVED BY. J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT TWO DEMONSTRATION MODELS
FOR ALTERNATIVE MASS TRANSPORT SYSTEMS IN METRO MANILA WORTH A
TOTAL OF ₱128 MILLION REMAINED NON-OPERATIONAL
AFTER COMPLETION IN 2014

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides: "The maintenance of peace
2 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare
3 are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

4 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6428 mandates the Metals Industry Research and
5 Development Center (MIRDC), an attached agency of the Department of Science and
6 Technology (DOST), to provide both government and private sectors in the metals and
7 engineering industry with professional management and technical expertise on the training of
8 engineers and technicians; information exchange; trade accreditation services; quality control
9 and testing of metal products; research and development; and business economics advisory
10 services;

11 WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) said that the MIRDC in 2014 completed
12 the ₱128.144-million construction of two Automated Guide-Way Transit (AGT) systems,
13 intended as demonstration models for alternative and efficient mass transport systems to ease
14 worsening traffic congestion in Metro Manila;

15 WHEREAS, state auditors however claimed that the AGT systems—one inside the
16 campus of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Quezon City and another near the DOST
17 compound in Bicutan, Taguig—remained non-operational by the end of 2014;

18 WHEREAS, the COA claimed that the AGT System-UP is stalled by technical issues
19 even after a maiden run in December 2012 and a test run in April 2013;

20 WHEREAS, the issues in AGT System-UP notwithstanding, the MIRDC allegedly
21 proceeded to implement the development of AGT System-Bicutan;

1 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that public funds utilized for the AGT systems could
2 have been reduced had the technical issues affecting AGT System-UP been addressed prior to
3 the implementation of AGT System-Bicutan;

4 WHEREAS, the non-operation of AGT systems also allegedly delay plans of replicating
5 it in other urban areas of the country;

6 WHEREAS, the COA recommended that AGT System-UP be operated even for at least
7 six months, as part of the experimental stage and continuous test runs to finally determine all
8 possible flaws;

9 WHEREAS, it also urged the MIRDC and the DOST to focus on and perfect one
10 technology research and development project before embarking on larger experimental
11 development to avoid uneconomical use of public funds;


12 WHEREAS, commenting on the MIRDC's response that the two AGT systems employ
13 different technologies, the COA reiterated that if the projects are purely for research and
14 development, AGT System-Bicutan should not have been implemented without first finishing
15 necessary technical modifications for AGT System-UP;

16 WHEREAS, the non-operation of the completed AGT systems defeats the sense of
17 urgency that inspired the projects in the first place, and delays large-scale implementation of
18 potential solutions to traffic congestion in Metro Manila;

19 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must, on the one hand, fast-track
20 research and development on public transportation systems, and, on the other, ensure that public
21 funds for such endeavors are judiciously used;

22 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
23 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Commission on
24 Audit report that two demonstration models for alternative mass transport systems in Metro
25 Manila worth a total of ₱128 million remained non-operational after completion in 2014.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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