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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session

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SENATE  
PSR No. 102

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Introduced by Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Richard Gordon,  
Manuel Lito Lapid, and Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PLAN OR COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS ON THE MACARTHUR HIGHWAY AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO THE NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY IN VIEW OF THE LATTER'S IMPENDING INCREASED TOLL FEES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ITS CONVERSION INTO A BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER SCHEME, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

*Whereas*, the 84-kilometer North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) which runs from the Balintawak toll plaza up to Sta. Ines, Mabalacat, Pampanga is a major thoroughfare connecting Metro Manila with the Central and Northern Luzon Provinces, that serves commuters and as passage for commercial goods and services;

*Whereas*, the NLEX serves as the fastest route traversing through several interchanges covering different cities and municipalities in the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga;

*Whereas*, the government entered into a "Build-Operate-Transfer" scheme covering the entire NLEX with the Manila North Tollway Corporation, a privately owned company, allowing the latter to develop, maintain and operate the NLEX for a period of thirty years in consideration for its franchise and/or concession to collect toll fees from road users;

*Whereas*, the NLEX project of the Manila North Tollway Corporation is reportedly ninety-two percent completed and that it is expected to be fully operational after the Toll Regulatory Board shall have issued in its favor its Toll Operating Permit;

*Whereas*, upon being granted the Toll Operating Permit, the MNTC shall have authority to collect rates from road users estimated at P2.50 per kilometer for ordinary vehicles;

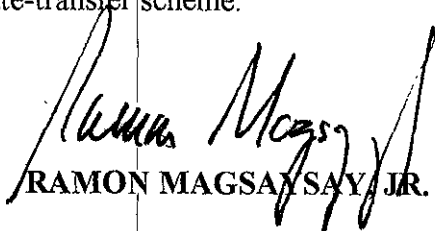
*Whereas*, road users and consumers are concerned and apprehensive on the possibility of frequent toll rate increases by the MNTC as a consequence of inflation and the devaluation of the peso;

*Whereas*, in order to arrest this apprehension and to protect the interests of these commuters, it is imperative for the State to offer a viable alternative for using the NLEX so that commuters and commercial vehicles carrying goods and services frequenting the northern route shall continue enjoying the conveniences and safety of an alternate route;

*Whereas*, the existing toll-free MacArthur Highway traversing Metro Manila and the Central and Northern Luzon provinces can be a viable alternative to the NLEX;

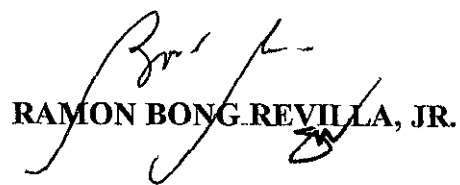
*Whereas*, if the State is to ensure the convenience and safety of the riding public in using the MacArthur Highway as an alternate route, the government must program and implement its rehabilitation.

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Works to inquire, in aid of legislation, into the plan or course of action taken by the Department of Public Works and Highways on the MacArthur highway as an alternative route to the North Luzon Expressway in view of the latter's impending increased toll fees as a consequence of its conversion into a build-operate-transfer scheme.

  
RAMON MAGSAYSAY, JR.

  
RICHARD GORDON

  
LITO LAPID

  
RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.