

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 131

RECORDED BY: *ja*

Introduced by HON. RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**A RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY'S MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM**

Whereas, the main reason a government constructs a mass train system is to have an efficient, safe and cheaper mode of transportation;

Whereas, it is the government's role to subsidize the commuting public;

Whereas, as has been reported in Senate hearings on this matter, all mass transit systems in the world are subsidized by the government;

Whereas, among the concerns raised by commuters of the country's mass transit system are operational interruptions, defective machines and long lines;

Whereas, two days after President Benigno Aquino III batted in his fourth SONA speech the need for higher fares to realign the state subsidy to social services, the Department of Transportation and Communication has approved an increase in fares;

Whereas, the Department is reportedly eyeing for P10 increase to be implemented in two tranches over two years or P5 for every year;

Whereas, any fare increase is downright anti-poor as majority of train riders come from student and employed sectors, who are non- or low- to middle- income earners;

Whereas, government subsidy to mass transit systems provide commuters the much-needed relief from high cost of transportation;

Whereas, before any increases is proposed, the government should first investigate the high cost of operations and the large amount of debt incurred by the project. It should be looked at if taxpayers are actually subsidizing debt incurred by the private consortium that built the MRT.

Whereas, furthermore, any fare increase, pending projects should first be implemented like the LRT 1 extension in Cavite which has long been overdue;

Whereas, the government should even increase its subsidy to facilitate the purchase of more trains to accommodate more passengers;

Whereas, public and mass transportation system's main objective is to decrease congestion, promote economic growth and lessen air pollution. Our railways, through their affordability, definitely helped achieve the said objectives. Any increase in fares will negate any advances that we have already gained through our mass transit system.

Be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services and other appropriate Senate committees, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the current state of the country's mass transit system.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.