

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

SENATE
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 58

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Sen. Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED LOOMING INCREASE IN FARE RATES AT THE METRO RAIL TRANSIT 3 (MRT 3) AND THE TWO LINES OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT), WITH THE END VIEW OF DETERMINING THE PROPRIETY OF SUCH PLANNED HIKES AND ENSURING A SAFE, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Constitution mandates the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;

WHEREAS, in order to provide the people in Metro Manila a mass transportation system, the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT 3) and the two lines of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) were established;

WHEREAS, the 17-kilometer MRT 3 stretches from Taft Avenue in Pasay City to North Avenue in Quezon City and will be linked to the LRT Line 1, which goes from Baclaran in Pasay City to Monumento in Caloocan;

WHEREAS, the LRT Line 2 currently has eleven stations that stretches from Claro M. Recto Ave. in Manila to Santolan in Pasig City;

WHEREAS, according to recent data provided by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the ridership of the three mass transit system in 2009 are as follows: MRT 3, 138.54 million; LRT Line 1, 113.57 million; and LRT Line 2, 48.57 million;

WHEREAS, on a daily basis, close to 500,000 passengers take the MRT 3 and the LRT Line 1, while the daily ridership of LRT Line 2 is about 250,000;

WHEREAS, the current fare rate in MRT 3 is P11 to P14, depending on the distance, while it is P10 to P15 in LRT Line 1 and P12 to P14 in LRT Line 2;

WHEREAS, news reports indicate plans to increase the fares in these three mass transit system as the costs of their operations are heavily subsidized by government;

WHEREAS, the LRT lines 1 and 2 is currently run by the government through the Light Rail Transit Authority, while MRT 3 is operated by a local private consortium;

WHEREAS, the DOTC said the government is spending more than P5 billion a year for MRT operations and maintenance, the reason for what was described as an "inevitable" increase in the line's fare rates;

WHEREAS, the proposed increase in the MRT 3 fare rate is from P14 pesos to P20 or P25, which the government describes as still less than the subsidy it gives to each passenger, which is estimated at P45;

WHEREAS, the proposed increase in MRT 3 fare rates would reportedly generate around P1 billion per annum in additional income;

WHEREAS, proposals to increase the fare rates in the two lines of the LRT are also being deliberated;

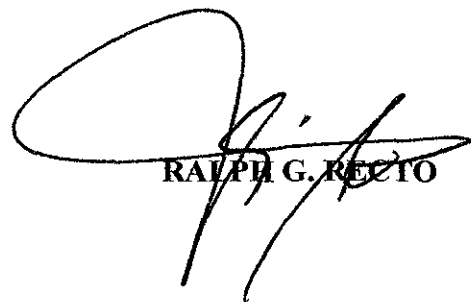
WHEREAS, there is public clamor for a careful review of the proposed increases in the fare rates of the three mass transit system as it would greatly affect the hundreds of thousands of commuters who rely on the prevailing low fares of MRT 3, LRT Line 1 and LRT Line 2 to get around Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, while it is admitted that the proposed fare increases can be justified, there is a need to determine whether or not government subsidy to these mass transit systems provide the general riding public a much-needed relief from the high cost of transportation;

WHEREAS, there is also a need to determine if there are other ways in which the three mass transit systems can recover losses in maintenance and operations without burdening the public by increasing the fares;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the reported looming increase in fare rates at the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT 3) and the two lines of the Light Rail Transit (LRT), with the end view of determining the propriety of such planned hikes and ensuring a safe, reliable and affordable mass transit system.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO