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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 33

RECORDED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MASS TRANSIT ROADMAP OF THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING ITS VIABILITY AND ENSURING A SAFE, RELIABLE, EFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE PUBLIC 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, the Philippine railway network consists of one commuter rail service provided by the PNR, and a rapid transit system operated by the Light Rail Transit Authority and Metro Rail Transit Corporation (LRT-MRT);

WHEREAS, the three railway networks are integrated, which aims to provide a "reliable, seamless and integrated mass transit system that would be at par with international standards" through the unification of already-existing rail infrastructure under one transit system and fare structure;

WHEREAS, the Manila Light Rail Transit (LRT) System is the main metropolitan rail system serving the Metro Manila area of the country, consisting of two lines: the LRT-1 which runs from Baclaran in Parañaque to EDSA-Caloocan, called the Yellow Line, and the newer LRT-2, called the Purple Line, which links C.M. Recto Avenue to Santolan in eastern Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the Manila Metro Rail Transit System has a single line called MRT-3 or the Blue Line, which was originally built to decongest Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA), one of Metro Manila's main thoroughfares;

WHEREAS, a P6-billion loop was built to link the LRT-1 system to MRT-3 in EDSA and unify the two elevated rail networks, which have yet to happen even after completion of the connecting rail structure in 2010;

WHEREAS, the elevated railway systems especially MRT-3 are operating beyond their passenger capacity as commuters spill over in long queues during peak hours;¹

WHEREAS, "The Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development for Metro Manila and Its Surrounding Areas" was conducted by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) with the help of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);

¹ MRT 3 Philippines. MRT Trains. <http://mrt3.com/index.php/trains.html>

WHEREAS, the proposed Mega Manila Subway, North-South Commuter Railway and other mass transportation projects are deemed as the "more important" components of the roadmap;

WHEREAS, the previous administration has adopted the JICA Study as a road map and has already started to implement components of that roadmap;

WHEREAS, on November 27, 2015, the JICA signed a loan agreement with the previous administration to provide a Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of up to US\$2 billion for the North – South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos - Tutuban);²

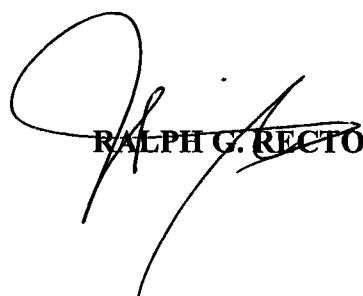
WHEREAS, the Japanese government is also funding the feasibility study on the proposed Mega Manila Subway Project to accommodate increasing transportation demand of Mega Manila by constructing an urban railway line including a subway section;

WHEREAS, the government has yet to accomplish a mass transit road map that would efficiently move people and cargo through a state-run mass transit system throughout the archipelago;

WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry is needed to revisit the weaknesses of the previous mass transit programs, avoid committing the same missteps and also look into the present mass transit road map of the government to determine its viability, particularly using rail system as the core of a holistic mass transit plan;

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, on the mass transit roadmap of the government, with the end in view of determining its viability and ensuring a safe, reliable, efficient and affordable public transit system.

Adopted,


RALPH G. RECTO

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² JICA Press Release on the Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Philippines.
http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2015/151127_01.html