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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 31

REGISTERED 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 COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT AMID THE WORSENING TRAFFIC GRIDLOCKS WHERE PRECIOUS RESOURCES AND MAN-HOURS ARE WASTED, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING IF SUCH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN WOULD ACTUALLY EASE CONGESTION IN MAJOR URBAN CENTERS AND SPEED UP THE SAFE AND EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that the State should 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, Metro Manila traffic cost us almost P900 billion in 2015, quantified by wasted time, fuel and lost human productivity, and was logged at 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.¹

WHEREAS, the total number of motor vehicles registered with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in 2014 reached 8.08 Million wherein almost a third of the vehicle registration is in the National Capital Region;²

WHEREAS, the recurrence of traffic gridlocks in Metro Manila and even in other major cities around the country has now reached critical level that throws our streets into chaos, making the movement of people and goods constricted, inefficient and unsafe;

WHEREAS, Metro Manila may become "uninhabitable" within four years if roads and other infrastructure are not upgraded immediately as the volume of vehicles sold is expected to surge to 500,000 by 2020;³

WHEREAS, traffic expert Regin Regidor of the University of the Philippines - National Center for Transportation Studies (NCTS) has recommended the construction of more flyovers in heavily congested areas and the development of country's public transportation and mass transit system;⁴

¹ Rey Gamboa. "Make Dream Plan 2030 a Reality", <http://www.philstar.com/business/2016/02/09/1551065/make-dream-plan-2030-reality> (accessed 14 June 2016).

² Land Transportation Office. Annual Report 2014. 03 February 2015.

³ Richmond Mercurio. "Traffic can make Metro Manila uninhabitable in 4 years", <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/01/04/1539050/traffic-can-make-metro-manila-uninhabitable-4-years>

⁴ Jose Regin F. Regidor. NCTS. Revisiting The Costs of Traffic Congestion in Metro Manila and Their Implications. 2012.

WHEREAS, another traffic expert, Rene Santiago in a paper uploaded on on-line news media portal Rappler, pointed out that building more roads may bring temporary relief but is akin to “buying a bigger pair of pants to solve the problem of obesity;”⁵

WHEREAS, the same Filipino traffic expert noted that urban mobility needs a good public transport system;

WHEREAS, traffic management solutions employed by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) through the years like number-coding, bus segregation scheme, yellow lane, U-turn slots and other traffic innovations need serious overhaul;

WHEREAS, instead of optimizing road assets, Metro Manila moved backward and dismantled nearly 50% of the intersections in favor of the “primitive and uncoordinated U-turn schemes;”


WHEREAS, the National Economic and Development Authority Board approved the USD57 billion Japan International Cooperation Agency ‘dream plan’ released in June 2014;

WHEREAS, the Dream Plan was formulated to emphasize the need to establish better north-south connectivity and appropriate hierarchy of different transportation modes such as roads, railways, and other mass transits;

WHEREAS, the inquiry should focus on the capacity of concerned agencies to execute the roadmap and devise ways for its successful implementation and ensure the efficient, safe and fast transport of people and products from one destination to another;

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 supposed comprehensive traffic management program of the government amid the worsening traffic gridlocks where precious resources and man-hours are wasted, with the end in view of determining if the traffic solution program would actually ease congestion in major urban centers and speed up the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

Adopted,


RALPH G. RECTO

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⁵ Rene Santiago. Taming the traffic beast of Metro Manila. <http://www.rappler.com/thought-leaders/15854-taming-the-traffic-beast-of-metro-manila>