

'16 JUL 26 P5:25

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 59

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPRIETY OF GRANTING SPECIAL OR EMERGENCY POWERS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO IMMEDIATELY SOLVE THE WORSENING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN METRO MANILA AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides that in times of war or other national emergency, Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to certain conditions, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy;

WHEREAS, residents and motorists in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces experience horrendous traffic congestion on a daily basis;

WHEREAS, Metro Manila continues to be the top contributor to the country's economy based on the 2014 statistics presented by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) posting a 37% share to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

WHEREAS, the Roadmap Study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) estimates that Metro Manila's traffic jams are costing the Philippine economy P2.4 billion a day or almost P900 billion a year in potential income, a figure which could balloon up to P6 billion a day or P180 billion a year by 2030¹;

WHEREAS, the objective of the Roadmap Study was to formulate a Transportation Infrastructure Roadmap for a sustainable development of Metro Manila and its surrounding areas;

WHEREAS, the Roadmap Study included proposals that can help reduce traffic congestion, remove barriers for seamless mobility, lower the cost of transportation for low-income groups and decrease air pollution.

WHEREAS, the proposals include: a) integration of a mass-transit network; b) an integrated network of developed urban expressways; c) modernization of road-based public transport system; and d) strengthening of the traffic management program.

WHEREAS, the short-term projects proposed by JICA are as follows: a) rehabilitation of main urban roads and to develop secondary roads in peri-urban areas; b) completion of NLEX-SLEX connector including the provision of access to port areas; c) as for urban rail, the Government must finalize the overall metropolitan urban rail network system plan by looking

¹ "Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development for Metro Manila and its Surrounding Areas (Region III and Region IV-A)", Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Study Period: March 2013-March 2014.

into the possibility of including a subway along EDSA, and to extend railway main lines and secondary lines; d) with respect to traffic management, the Government must conduct a comprehensive traffic management study that will strengthen enforcement capacities and introduce systematic road safety interventions; and e) with regard to gateway ports and airports, the Government must implement committed improvement packages for Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and Clark International Airport, place cap for expansion of Manila ports and facilitate diversion to Batangas and Subic Ports through incentives, and to conduct study for the development of a new NAIA and redevelopment of the Port of Manila;

WHEREAS, should the worsening traffic problem persist, the economic losses may soon reach unmanageable proportion;

WHEREAS, the implementation of the JICA Roadmap Study by 2030 is expected to produce the following results: a) time cost savings of up to P570 billion a year; b) toll and fare revenue for the Government of up to P119 billion a year; c) public transport fare savings of up to P18 a day; and d) travel time reduction of up to 49 minutes per trip;

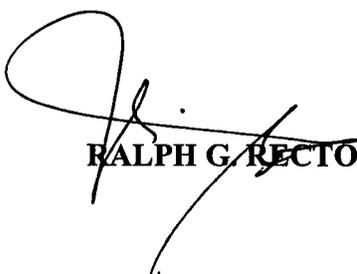
WHEREAS, the Executive Department has already reviewed the JICA Roadmap Study and has formulated an action plan in order to implement the JICA proposals but admitted that there are serious physical and legal roadblocks that must be hurdled before the Government can fully implement the JICA proposals;

WHEREAS, in providing special or emergency powers to the President of the Republic of the Philippines to solve the vehicular traffic crisis, impediments to the full implementation of the JICA proposals such as restraining orders or injunctions from courts, right of way issues, restrictive regulations from Local Government Units (LGUs), and even the control, management and apprehension of undisciplined motorists and pedestrians may be specifically addressed;

WHEREAS, prior to granting emergency powers to the President, it is incumbent upon Congress to inquire from the Executive Department the specific powers being requested and thereafter ascertain whether or not the grant of emergency powers is indeed necessary and proper and will enable the President to implement programs that will solve the country's traffic woes, unhindered by the usual bureaucratic delays;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the propriety of granting special or emergency powers to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, to immediately solve the worsening traffic congestion in Metro Manila and its surrounding provinces.

Adopted,


RALPH G. RECTO