

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 AUG 17 P3:14

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 119

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 FEASIBLE MITIGATING MEASURES THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CAN PURSUE IN ORDER TO CUSHION THE DIRE EFFECTS ON THE MOTORING PUBLIC OF THE 250-PERCENT INCREASE IN TOLL FEES AT THE SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY (SLEX)

WHEREAS, Section 20, Article II of the Constitution states that: "The State recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments;

WHEREAS, in President Benigno Aquino III's first State of the Nation Address (SONA), he emphasized the importance of encouraging public-private partnerships as a means to develop the country's infrastructure in all sectors;

WHEREAS, the improvements on the SLEX is an example of the public-private partnership that President Aquino mentioned in his SONA;

WHEREAS, last June 2010, the Toll Regulatory Board approved a petition by the SLEX toll operator for a 250-percent increase in toll rates, citing as reason the need for its investors to recover some P11.5 billion in investments poured into the road project;

WHEREAS, acting on several petitions to stop the increase filed before it, the Supreme Court on August 13, 2010 issued a temporary restraining order on the toll fee hike in SLEX;

WHEREAS, this clash of public and private interests on the issue of the toll fee increase weighs heavily against future public-private partnerships that the government may wish to pursue in order to improve the country's infrastructure;

WHEREAS, in order to break this impasse, the government should find ways to mitigate the effects of the 250-percent increase in toll fees in SLEX in order to lessen its dire effects on the motoring public and at the same time comply with its obligations to private investments;

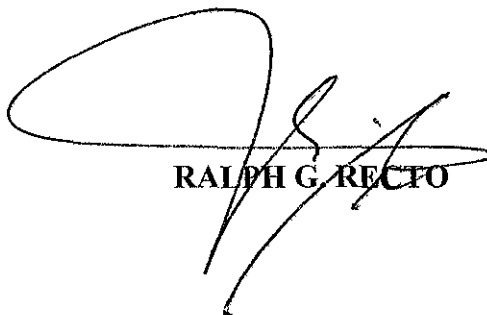
WHEREAS, there are an array of solutions which can be pursued in order to reduce the negative impact of the toll increase on the Filipino people, such as spreading the amount of the increase within a two or three-year period;

WHEREAS, the government may also inquire on the status of the toll fees allegedly collected by the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC) from 2007, when its franchise to operate tollways expired, to 2010 which, according to reports, amounts to some P2.7 billion;

WHEREAS, the government may also look into the possibility of using the said funds, which are now in possession of PNCC, to pay off the investors and in the process lessen the amount of the increase in SLEX toll fees;

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 feasible mitigating measures that the national government can pursue in order to cushion the dire effects on the motoring public of the 250-percent increase in toll fees at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO