



DISCUSSIONS WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
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| Transportation | <p>Discussion with concerned government agencies on the following transport-related issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LRT-2 Santolan station fire incident Alleged mass transport crisis Four-hour traffic from San Pedro, Laguna to Makati City via South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) on September 26 | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Western Samar), discussed with concerned government agencies issues concerning the transport sector.</p> <p>Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) Corporate Board Secretary Hernando Cabrera reported that the LRTA has not yet concluded its investigation of the cause of fire that broke out at the LRT-2 Santolan station on October 3. He explained that the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), which has primary jurisdiction over the investigation of fire incidents, has barred other people, including those from LRTA, from entering the fire scene.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III said that once the BFP has concluded its investigation, the area will be opened to LRTA.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said that the BFP and LRTA should have conducted a joint investigation considering that BFP personnel do not have the technical expertise on railway operations. Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla (7th District, Cavite) also rejected the idea of not involving the LRTA in the investigation of the cause of fire, adding that more than a week of investigation brings BFP's leadership into question.</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Micaela Violago's (2nd District, Nueva Ecija) query, Cabrera said that the fire incident is covered by insurance under the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Mark Richmond de Leon and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Board Member Antonio Gardiola reported that steps have been undertaken to augment the number of public utility vehicles along the affected route immediately after the LRT-2 fire incident. So far, Gardiola said, additional 69 buses were dispatched to service this route.</p> <p>Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) Secretary General Renato Reyes claimed that a mass transport crisis now exists, citing the long lines of passengers at the LRT stations, stranded commuters, and frequent breakdowns of train operations, with no single agency claiming responsibility for these problems.</p> <p>On the question of Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS) whether such transport crisis really exists, Undersecretary De Leon alluded to the statement of Malacañang that there is no transport paralysis in the country or in the metropolis.</p> <p>Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) Operations Management Division Chief Oliver Tanseco said that 95% of the HPG's personnel are on the road to enforce traffic rules and ensure road safety.</p> <p>Skyway O&M Corp. (SOMCO) President Manuel Bonoan reported that SOMCO is working with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for a more effective traffic management plan along SLEX while the Skyway Extension project is ongoing. By the end of November 2019, motorists who use SLEX can expect better traffic conditions when SLEX Lane 3 will be reopened, Bonoan added.</p> <p>Traffic was reportedly at its worse last September 26 along SLEX after its third lane was closed to give way to the construction of the Skyway Extension Project.</p> |