

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Resolution No. 286



Introduced by Representatives PAOLO Z. DUTERTE and ERIC GO YAP

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE/S TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE MINDANAO RAILWAY PROJECT (MRP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR) ON THE MANNER OF IDENTIFICATION OF PROPERTIES TO BE COVERED BY THE MRP, ITS ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY, EXPROPRIATION OF AFFECTED PROPERTIES, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY, FAIRNESS, AND EQUITY FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Mindanao Railway Project (MRP) through the Department of Transportation (DOTr), is the first rail system outside Luzon, which covers a 1,530-kilometer circumferential and spur rail lines that will connect the Davao Provinces, Iligan City, Cagayan de Oro City, General Santos City, and Zamboanga¹.

WHEREAS, the Phase 1 of the MRP (MRP-TDD), is a 105-kilometer line that is expected to reduce travel time from Davao del Norte to Davao del Sur from 3.5 hours to just 1.3 hours. It will have eight stations: Tagum, Carmen, Panabo, Mudiang, Davao Terminal, Toril, Sta. Cruz, and Digos².

WHEREAS, the MRP-TDD segment³ is the first of the 3 segments of the Mindanao Railway Project. It is expected to not only make travel faster, but also safer, more convenient and comfortable for passengers in the said corridor. A 10-hectare depot will be built in Tagum City.

WHEREAS, the rail line will be built with a single track, with provisions for future tracks and electrification. It will have six 5-car passenger trains (Diesel Multiple Units) with 3 spare cars, 4 locomotives and 15 freight cars⁴.

WHEREAS, upon project completion, the DOTr expects the daily ridership of the Tagum-Davao-Digos segment to increase to 134,060 by 2022. The Department projects the daily ridership to further increase to 237,023 by 2032 and 375,134 by 2042⁵.

¹ "MINDANAO RAILWAY PROJECT TAKES OFF, GETS INITIAL FUNDING FROM CONGRESS". Department of Transportation. September 2, 2014. Retrieved October 22, 2021. [<https://dotr.gov.ph/2014-09-02-05-01-41/latest-news/283-mindanao-railway-project-takes-off-gets-initial-funding-from-congress.html>]

² *Ibid.*

³ <https://dotr.gov.ph/10-press-releases/246-first-phase-of-mindanao-railway-project-to-cut-tagum-to-digos-travel-time-from-3-5-to-1-3-hours.html>. Last retrieved October 23, 2021.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, in undertaking the MRP, various communities and private properties will be directly affected thus necessitating the institution and commencement of acquisition of the right-of-way process which involves surveying, issuance of offers to buy and notices to property owners, among others⁶.

WHEREAS, it has come to our attention through various reports from the local communities affected that there are variations in the offers for acquisition of right-of-way or expropriation⁷ of the private properties by the DOTr and/or its contractors, sub-contractors, or other service providers.

WHEREAS, these variations in offers have substantial discrepancies from the actual Zonal Value or Fair Market Value of the properties affected.

WHEREAS, among the properties covered include those located in Barangays New Visayas and Datu Abdul Dadia, both in Panabo City, among others.

WHEREAS, further recent reports received revealed that the MRP will also traverse densely populated areas particularly in Davao City without the appropriate geological surveys or proper public consultation with the affected communities and/or subdivisions therein such as those situated in Brgy. Catalunan Grande, among others.

WHEREAS, a Barangay resolution has also been issued with respect to the immediately preceding concern signifying the opposition of the residents therein as the MRP will result to undue safety and health hazard, as well as noise pollution, to name a few.

WHEREAS, there is a need to properly determine the correct and appropriate manner of identifying the areas where the MRP will traverse in order to ensure public safety and welfare while still being able to pursue the MRP for sustained growth and development in the region.

WHEREAS, the inquiry and investigation will be in aid of legislation in order to revisit existing laws and rules on the manner of identifying the appropriate locations and/or areas of the MRP in addition to concerns of proper acquisition of right-of-way and expropriation of private properties affected by government works, infrastructure, and other projects and to strengthen the same or come up with new and better mechanisms to ensure that all affected stakeholders, whether from the public or private sector, are adequately compensated and protected by applicable laws and rules.

WHEREAS, a similar Resolution has already been filed in 18th Congress and this is now being filed with the same intent to ensure transparency and accountability of the use of public funds while always keeping in mind the safety and welfare of the general populace in the delivery of public services.

⁶ <https://business.inquirer.net/330847/mindanao-railway-construction-set-to-start-in-2022>. Last retrieved October 23, 2021.

⁷ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1602448/with-no-contractors-from-china-mindanao-railway-project-hits-the-brakes>. Retrieved August 17, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the appropriate House Committee/s to urgently conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, the Mindanao Railway Project (MRP) of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on the manner of its locational and property identification as well as manner of acquisition of right-of-way, expropriation of affected properties, and other related matters in order to promote transparency, fairness, and equity for all stakeholders, and for other purposes.

Resolved,



PAOLO Z. DUTERTE



ERIC GO YAP