

# Committee Daily Bulletin



18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Manila), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 18 <sup>th</sup> Congress, subject to style.

## AGENCY BRIEFING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	<p>Briefing by the following government agencies on their respective programs and projects for Metro Manila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Manila), agreed to conduct another meeting to continue its discussion on government plans and programs for Metro Manila.</p> <p>MMDA General Manager Jose Arturo Garcia Jr. reported that several policies aimed at decongesting EDSA have been set or implemented by the MMDA. From implementing the no loading and unloading policy on EDSA, he said the MMDA is now set on banning provincial buses from plying EDSA and from entering Metro Manila. He added that the MMDA will be strictly enforcing the "yellow lane" policy requiring all city buses to use only the two outermost lanes on EDSA marked by yellow lines.</p> <p>Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6<sup>th</sup> District, Manila) expressed concern over the worsening traffic situation along EDSA even with various measures being implemented. Garcia expressed the hope that with the implementation of the provincial bus ban, traffic on EDSA will be reduced considerably.</p> <p>Based on Metro Manila Council (MMC) Resolution No. 19-002, all provincial buses originating from Northern Luzon will end their trips at the designated interim bus terminal in Valenzuela City, while those coming from the South will end their trips at an interim bus terminal in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. City buses or other modes of public transport will take the passengers from these terminals to their destinations in Metro Manila and back. Garcia said that local chief executives of Metro Manila, who comprise the MMC, are cooperating with the MMDA's provincial bus ban policy and road-clearing operations to ease traffic on EDSA.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Neptali Gonzales II (Mandaluyong City) suggested that the MMDA should regulate and schedule the operation of city buses on EDSA so that they will not linger in bus stops to wait for passengers, which is one of the causes of traffic along this major route. Likewise, Rep. Bayani Fernando (1<sup>st</sup> District, Marikina City) urged the MMDA to pursue the implementation of the "organized bus route."</p> <p>The organized bus route on EDSA, first implemented in 2003, was</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Development</p> <p>Manila</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Transportation (DOTr)</li>            <li>• Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)</li>            <li>• National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO)</li> </ul>	<p>intended to decongest traffic and increase travel speed by controlling the headways between buses dispatched at terminals depending on the number of passengers on the road.</p> <p>Alberto Suansing, a consultant in the DOTr and former Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief, said that the DOTr is fast-tracking the establishment of permanent integrated bus terminals for provincial buses. He said that new city bus routes are also being studied to establish connectivity with the designated provincial bus terminals. He added that the Department will continue to pursue the PUV Modernization Program to upgrade the public transport system in metropolitan areas.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Timothy John Batan briefly discussed the DOTr's railway projects in Metro Manila, focusing on the integrated commuter rail network that will increase passenger capacity and spur growth in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Regions III and IV-A.</p> <p>DPWH NCR Assistant Regional Director Juby Cordon reported on the status of the DPWH's ongoing projects in Metro Manila such as the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of national roads, bridges, and flood control structures.</p> <p>Cordon said that the DPWH is coordinating with concerned local government units (LGUs), the MMDA, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to address problems in garbage disposal.</p> <p>Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo expressed dismay at the DPWH's apparent snail-paced implementation of projects under the Metro Manila Flood Management Master Plan, saying that to date, only 50% of the projects were accomplished.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez instructed the DPWH to report on the status of these flood control projects in the Committee's next meeting.</p> <p>The government, with financial and technical support from the World Bank, formulated the Metro Manila Flood Management Master Plan, which was approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board in 2012. Under the master plan, 36 existing pumping stations will be modernized, 20 new ones will be constructed, and supporting infrastructure along critical waterways will be improved covering the cities of Manila, Pasay, Taguig, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Valenzuela, Quezon, and Caloocan. <i>(Source: World Bank website)</i></p> <p>NCRPO's Deputy Regional Director for Administration Herminio Tadeo said that the NCRPO is right now providing support to the MMDA, DPWH, and LGUs in removing obstructions on roads in Metro Manila especially those which are used as alternate routes. The NCRPO also started demolishing police community precincts and community police assistance centers that are obstructing public roads, Tadeo added.</p> <p>The road clearing operations are in compliance with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to reclaim public roads that are being used for private ends and rid the streets of obstructions such as illegally parked vehicles and illegal structures.</p>
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