

PRESS RELEASE

So far yet so fast – Luistro on MRT-LRT ride

True to the promise of President Benigno Aquino III of sensitive leadership, Education Secretary Armin Luistro has shown that this new set of cabinet officials are indeed serious in proving themselves that they are not just for the people, but also among the people.

Yesterday, Luistro went to his appointment not by riding in his usual official vehicle but by commuting using the mass transit service of Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT).

“This new administration wants to show the people that we are one of them. I want to personally experience how it is to commute during the rush hour period like most people do, particularly students,” said Luistro as he traveled without any special assistance or security escort.

Luistro attended a meeting at the House of Representatives in Batasan that ended around 5:00pm and had to rush to De La Salle University (DLSU) in Taft Avenue, Manila for a turn-over ceremony that is set to start with a mass at 6:00pm. Since it was the same time when traffic is at its worst, he opted to take the mass transit. He followed the route of MRT-Trinoma Station to MRT-Taft, LRT-EDSA Station to LRT-Taft where his last stop was at LRT-Taft Station (Vito Cruz). Upon arriving, he walked from the station to DLSU. He was able to arrive in time for the formal turn-over that he might have otherwise missed.

The Secretary added that riding the train is, “his way of following President Aquino’s example of not using his vehicle’s ‘wang-wang’.”

Asked on how his experience commuting has been, he answered, "I was taken for a very smooth ride. I'm happy I took the MRT and LRT because I arrived at my destination on the expected time. Because of this, I intend to take it more often." He even suggested, “Other cabinet officials should try commuting once in a while to share the same experience I had. For whatever reason, that keeps our feet very well on the ground and hopefully, our decisions will be also not up in the air but close to what people go through everyday”.

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