

- Mayor, Vice Mayor

## DOTr, QC gov't, SMC to settle issues on MRT-7 construction

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Several issues concerning the construction of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT)-7 related to the suspension of the above-ground construction work last Feb. 18, will be settled during a meeting on Friday, Feb. 28, of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Quezon City government, and the San Miguel Corporation (SMC).

This was confirmed by the officials of the Quezon City government and the DOTr during the House Committee on Transportation motu proprio inquiry on the Quezon City government's suspension of MRT-7 construction.

Samar Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento, chairman of the House Committee on

Transportation asked the city government officials if they already discussed the matter with the DOTr.

"Mr. Chair, we already discussed with the DOTr and San Miguel Corp. and we will have meeting on Friday as regards to the revised design for the structure," Atty. Mark Dale Perral told the House panel.

He even assured the panel that the Quezon City government's suspension of the above-ground construction of the new MRT Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC) station last Feb. 18 "will not affect in any manner the functionality and operability of the MRT 7."

"The railways, and apurtenances and instrumentation for the operation are underground. Our question is here is the above construction only," Perral clarified.

Joseph Juico, assistant secretary to the mayor, said they already met with DOTr

Undersecretary Timothy John Batan and SMC, the MRT developer, to air their sentiments.

"The city government would like to preserve the Quezon City Memorial Circle, given that it is a main part of the city. It is located in the heart of the city, it is the emblem, symbol of the city. And a super structure or an above ground structure would totally destroy the heart of the city," he said.