



# **KATIPUNANG MANGGAGAWANG PILIPINO**

(TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES)

Unit 601, 6/F Marbella II, Malate, Manila, 1002 PHILIPPINES

*An affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and ITUC Asia Pacific*

10 December 2013

**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE**  
South Korea

Dear President Park Geun-hye:

On behalf of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), an affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), I am writing to express our serious concern about the apparent breakdown of labour relations in the rail industry, demonstrated by an unfortunate failure on the part of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MoLIT) and the railway employer KORAIL to consult with the ITF's affiliate Korean railway workers' union (KRWU).

Our union understands that both Korean railway workers' representatives and the Korean public are concerned that that your government's restructuring plan for the future of the railways will lead to increased safety problems, rising fares and the reduction of services to poor and rural areas. It is clear that this programme is intended to prepare for the entry of private and other profit-driven sources of capital into the Korean rail industry. However, dialogue on this issue has been impossible due to the intransigence of the MoLIT and KORAIL. Within this context, in line with internationally recognised trade union rights, the Korean Railway Workers' Union (KRWU) has felt it has no choice but to schedule industrial action from 9 December.

In the context of this lawful decision by the ITF's affiliate, we are also concerned about your government's record of failure to respect labour rights. We recall that during a 2009 railway dispute in Korea, both the employers and the state resorted to illegitimate actions against striking workers – including criminal charges, imprisonment, filing lawsuits for damages, dismissals and disciplinary action. We note that in November 2012, the ILO issued recommendations for correction of these violations (CFA Case 2829). However, a year later your government has not progressed with these recommendations.

Your Excellency, in the light of the current serious situation, and in the interests of Korea's transport users as well as of its wider public, we are seeking your urgent intervention to achieve the following objectives and allow for a dialogue to take place, which will put in place the essential building blocks for improved industrial relations and a positive environment for the development of Korea's rail industry:

**37 YEARS OF  
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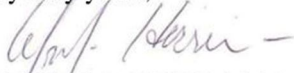
1. Halt plans to establish the new KTX operation company, the first step in the execution of the plan for rail restructuring and privatisation.
2. Create a mechanism for multi-stakeholder dialogue on rail policy that includes the union, opposition politicians and civil society representatives.
3. Refrain from repressive tactics against workers - such as the use of replacement workers, criminal charges, lawsuits for damages, dismissals and disciplinary actions.
4. Take the measures necessary to correct past labour rights violations against KRWU members as recommended by the ILO.

Your Excellency, we are sure you understand that we fully support the KRWU and are extremely concerned to see an equitable resolution to this current conflict, so we urge you to consider these matters at your earliest convenience.

We would be very grateful to hear your comments on this urgent and serious matter, and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Very truly yours,



**ERNESTO F. HERRERA, Ph.D.**

Former Senator, and  
TUCP President