There are many ways that taxpayers’ money can be used. One is to simply inject public money into private operators and hope, at least, that they will spend the money wisely. Another way is to nationalise public transport. In this model, the Government pays for and provides the infrastructure, such as railways and bus depots. The Government also takes on the responsibility of operating public transport on a daily basis. Under the new contracting model, the Government takes over the ownership of buses and assets, and contracts the running of bus routes to private bus operators for a fee. Fare revenue goes to the Government. It has been argued that this approach is unfair to commuters. But I was delighted to read material in The Straits Times which provides a balanced perspective on the issue.

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