SEVENTEETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

SENATE

P.S.R. NO. 80

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY OF THE BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO BE COMMISSIONED AS A SOURCE OF ELECTRICITY WITH THE END VIEW OF FORMULATING MEASURES FOR ITS REHABILITATION OR THE DECOMMISSIONING OF ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES AND FINDING ALTERNATIVE USE FOR ITS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2016, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines declared that the Luzon grid was placed on red alert status from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. due to severe power deficiency. The day after, the Luzon grid was placed on yellow alert due to lower level operating reserves.

WHEREAS, energy experts had long predicted the looming power crisis in the country caused by insufficiency of baseload power plants. This problem prevents the country to reach its full economic potential. The unstable power supply and high cost of electricity are some of the major deterrents to investors.

WHEREAS, the government has an available asset that can be utilized to supply the power requirements for the Luzon grid located in Bataan province.

WHEREAS, nuclear energy provides electricity without producing large

amounts of carbon emissions, as is the case with fossil fuels. Nuclear generation is amongst the most cost-effective ways of generating electricity and provides long term certainty over electricity costs. [1]

WHEREAS, as of May 2016, 30 countries worldwide are operating 444 nuclear reactors for electricity generation and 63 new nuclear plants are under construction in 15 countries. Nuclear power plants provided 10.9 percent of the world's electricity production in 2012. In 2015, 13 countries relied on nuclear energy to supply at least one-quarter of their total electricity. [2]

WHEREAS, Bataan Nuclear Power Plant located at Napot Point, Morong Bataan was built during the regime of former president Ferdinand Marcos, to solve then impending oil crisis. The government spent more than $2 billion to complete the construction but the 623MW plant was never put into commercial operation. The cost maintenance and preservation cost amounts to Php 40 to Php 50 million per annum.

WHEREAS, BNPP is considered to be one among the robustly-built nuclear power station in the world, and more advance in design and younger than more than half of the operating nuclear power plants in the United States of America, the BNPP was designed to withstand the highest postulated earthquake in the Luzon island at ground acceleration value of 0.4G or Intensity 8 in the Richter Scale. At 18 meters above sea level ground elevation, the BNPP plant site is well protected against tidal waves and tsunamis. It can sustain operation even if a Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant-like tsunami incident of March 11, 2011 happened at this site.[3]

WHEREAS, pursuant to a law, the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) is mandated to preserve and maintain the BNPP. According to NAPOCOR, the craftsmen of the said law envisioned that somewhere in the future, BNPP may be resurrected, and be able to provide safe, clean, reliable and cheap energy, while at the same time steering the nation towards economic and technological advancement.

WHEREAS, as stated by nuclear energy experts, BNPP can be activated at a cost of around $1 billion. It can generate electricity 623 MW plus an additional 5MW from its Nuclear Steam Supply System without nuclear fuel for an estimated cost of P2.50 per kilowatt-hour, cheaper than the current average generation cost.

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[1] http://www.world-nuclear.org/nuclear-basics.aspx

[2] http://www.nei.org/Knowledge-Center/Nuclear-Statistics/World-Statistics

[3] http://www.napocor.gov.ph/index.php/bataan-nuclear-power-plant

WHEREAS, considering the annual maintenance cost and the $2 billion construction cost, it is high time to finally consider the viability of BNPP to be one of the sources of electricity for Luzon grid. However, in case it is no longer feasible to be commercially operated, the government should take the necessary step to utilize the sleeping giant asset for another use.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Energy to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the viability of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant to be commissioned as a source of electricity with the end view of formulating measures for its rehabilitation or the decommissioning of its nuclear capabilities and finding alternative use of its facilities.

Adopted,

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO