



SENATE

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RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION AND ALL OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE A CONCRETE AND VIABLE ROADMAP FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION WITH THE END VIEW OF EXPANDING THE CAPACITIES, CAPABILITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES OF RURAL COMMUNITIES TOWARDS SELF-DETERMINATION, SELF-RELIANCE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTING THE JUST AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES, AND UPHOLDING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY THROUGHOUT ALL OF PHILIPPINE SOCIETY

1 WHEREAS, the United Nation Development Programme's Sustainable
2 Development Goals (SDGs) are "a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the
3 planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity"¹ wherein SDG No. 7
4 aims to ensure "universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy by
5 2030"²;

6 WHEREAS, SDG No. 7 is in line with Article 2, Section 9 of the 1987
7 Philippine Constitution which provides that "the State shall promote a just and
8 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation
9 and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social
10 services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved
11 quality of life for all";

¹ Sustainable Development Goals. (n.d.). Retrieved from
<http://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

² Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy. (n.d.). Retrieved from
<http://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-7-affordable-and-clean-energy.html>

1 WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 10 of the same declares that “the State shall
2 promote social justice in all phases of national development”;

3 WHEREAS, one such social service which all Filipinos are entitled to, and the
4 State, as primary duty-bearers, mandated to provide is the right to access affordable
5 and sustainable energy. In an increasingly technological-oriented and globalized
6 world, steady access to energy resources can enable individuals and communities to
7 significantly expand the opportunities and capabilities they otherwise would not have
8 in its absence. For instance, reliable and sustained access to energy sources can
9 enable communities to stay connected in times of crises or calamities or help provide
10 light to schools and homes thereby enabling children to continue their studies even
11 as daylight begins to diminish among other benefits;

12 WHEREAS, in a study from 2013, it was determined that approximately 16
13 million Filipinos still have no access to energy in the form of electricity. From the
14 same study, it was noted that disparity in access to electricity between urban and
15 rural populations was at 21% with the urban and rural electrification rates pegged at
16 94 and 73 percent, respectively³;

17 WHEREAS, in 2015, it was reported that there were approximately 4,954
18 *sitios* remaining in the country without access to electricity. Of the aforementioned,
19 Luzon had 1,471, Visayas had 1,855, and Mindanao had 1,628 *sitios* still waiting for
20 access to power. In contrast, the report noted that the government had been able to
21 electrify all 1,475 of its target cities and municipalities as well as 99.97% of their
22 targeted barangays while aiming for the electrification of 90% of all households in
23 the Philippines by 2017⁴;

24 WHEREAS, in a 2017 study conducted by the International Renewable Energy
25 Agency (IRENA), it was determined that the regions which surpassed the 90% target
26 threshold for household electrification were the National Capital Region (NCR),
27 Region III, and Region IV-A at 98.03, 92.30, and 92.03 percent, respectively⁵. At the

³ Navarro, A. M., Sambodo, M. T., & Todoc, J. L. “Energy Market Integration and Energy Poverty in ASEAN” *PIDS Discussion Papers Series* (No. 2013-50). (p. 4). Retrieved from <https://dirp3.pids.gov.ph/webportal/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1350.pdf>

⁴ Ranada, P. (n.d.). Green energy to help in 'last mile' of PH rural electrification. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/science-nature/environment/climate-change/stories/110696-renewable-energy-last-mile-philippine-rural-electrification>

⁵ IRENA (2017). *Accelerating renewable mini-grid deployment: A study on the Philippines*. International Renewable Energy Agency. Abu Dhabi. (p. 15)

1 opposite end of the spectrum lies what is currently the Autonomous Region of
2 Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) at a lowly 32.15% household electrification⁶;

3 WHEREAS, in a 2017 study, it was determined that Filipinos in general have
4 high access to basic social services, with around 83.5% of the population reported to
5 have access to electricity in particular.⁷ However, further disaggregation of the data
6 reveals that there is a major disparity, in terms of access, prevailing across ethnic
7 groups and geographical areas⁸. For instance, 86.9% of Non-muslim/Non-IP ethnic
8 groups as compared with 61.5% of Muslim ethnic groups have access to electricity
9 across the Philippines. The disparity is even more pronounced when the data focuses
10 exclusively on the island of Mindanao with 79.9% for Non-muslim/Non-IP ethnic
11 groups and 60.2% for Muslim ethnic groups⁹;

12 WHEREAS, the lack of access to basic social services is a function of social
13 exclusion and discrimination as well as a universal indicator of poverty and
14 inequality;

15 WHEREAS, taking concrete measures towards providing access to electricity
16 for marginalized communities of the Philippines significantly contributes to the
17 nation's fight against poverty and inequality;

18 WHEREAS, the process itself of expanding the capacities, capabilities, and
19 opportunities of the poorest and most marginalized of individuals and communities
20 to be able to act on their own subjective realities directly contributes to a just and
21 inclusive society and serves as a positive indicator of national development;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the
23 National Electrification Administration and all other concerned government agencies
24 to provide a concrete and viable roadmap for rural electrification with the end view
25 of expanding the capacities, capabilities, and opportunities of rural communities
26 towards self-determination, self-reliance and rural development, promoting the just
27 and equitable distribution of resources, and upholding social justice and equality
28 throughout all of Philippine society.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Asis, A. D., Mina, C. D., & Reyes, C. M. "Inequality of Opportunities Among Ethnic Groups in the Philippines" *PIDS Discussion Papers Series* (No. 2017-42). (pp. 28-29) Retrieved from <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1742.pdf>

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

Adopted,

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