

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
First Regular Session

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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 107**

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Introduced by **SENATOR RAFFY T. TULFO**

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**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PERSISTENT AND RECURRING POWER OUTAGES AND ROTATIONAL BLACKOUTS IN THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND ON THE RISING COST OF ELECTRICITY AMID THESE POWER INTERRUPTIONS**

WHEREAS, for the past two years, several parts of the country have been plagued by chronic and recurring power outages and rotational blackouts.

WHEREAS, on June 2021, the main island of Luzon was subjected to rotational brownouts with a red alert status raised that lasted for days<sup>1</sup> and likewise became vulnerable to power outages due to power plant shutdowns.<sup>2</sup> A year after, the same scenario still persists, with another power outage hitting the island on June 2022 due to alleged technical issues;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, by early to mid-2022, various reports have surfaced claiming that the Philippines might be in for a serious energy crisis<sup>4</sup>, with allegations of thinning

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<sup>1</sup> Rotational brownouts to persist in Luzon, Philippine News Agency, June 2, 2021, available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1142312>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Philippines' main island sees more power outages, exposing vulnerable grid, Reuters, June 2, 2021, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/philippines-powerstation-idUSL3N2NK05J>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Rivera, Danessa, Parts of Luzon hit by power outage, Philippine Star, June 19, 2022, available at <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/06/19/2189346/parts-luzon-hit-power-outage>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Toledo, Mike. "Looming energy crisis?", Philippine Star, March 3, 2022 available at <https://www.philstar.com/other-sections/newsmakers/2022/03/22/2168889/looming-energy-crisis>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

power reserves<sup>5</sup>, outdated energy system<sup>6</sup> and the impending depletion of the Malampaya gas fields<sup>7</sup> which has been a concern since 2020.

WHEREAS, the most perplexing of concerns relative to the alleged forthcoming energy crisis are the cases of Oriental Mindoro and Albay, with reports of power and electric supply interruptions pervasive almost every day in these provinces, thus, power outages unreasonably becoming a way of life to their residents.

WHEREAS, in June 2022, at least 78 power interruption notices were announced by APEC (Albay Power and Energy Corp.) on its social media account, with least 39 of those were scheduled power interruptions while there were 37 emergency power interruptions.<sup>8</sup> Vis-à-vis these power interruptions are rising power rates which has unjustly posed additional burden to the people.

WHEREAS, the most disturbing amongst all the regions suffering from power outages is the present situation in Mindoro, whereby Occidental Mindoro has been officially placed in a "state of power crisis" in July 2022.<sup>9</sup> Both Oriental and Occidental Mindoro have been enduring six to 14 hours of power outages every day since June 27 because of shortage in power supply affecting over a million of its residents. In San Jose, the Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative Inc. (Omeco) has been unable to give a 24-hour power supply to its 83,000 consumers connected to its grid.<sup>10</sup>

WHEREAS, amid these power outages and rotational brownouts, there has been a deluge of complaints on media and social media from consumers condemning unreasonable power rates. Electricity prices in the Philippines remain as one of the highest in Southeast Asia and considered relatively high compared to global standards, at roughly \$0.20 per kWh<sup>11</sup>, a reality that consumer groups have consistently denounced.

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<sup>5</sup> Ocampo, Karl, "Thin power reserves threatening Luzon in crucial elections months, Philippine Daily Inquirer, March 1, 2022, available at <https://business.inquirer.net/342097/thin-power-reserves-threatening-luzon-in-crucial-election-months>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Looming power outages caused by outdated energy system, Greenpeace Philippines, June 19, 2021, available at <https://www.greenpeace.org/philippines/press/10646/greenpeace-looming-power-outages-caused-by-outdated-energy-system/>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Philippines Energy Market, April 22, 2020 available at <https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/philippines-energy-market>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Baclig, Cristina Eloisa, Months of darkness in Albay; Power outages, rising rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer, July 7, 2022, available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1623938/months-of-darkness-in-albay-power-outages-rising-rates#ixzz7bFORDaCy>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Franche, Doris, "State of power crisis" idineklara sa Occidental Mindoro, Philippine Star Ngayon, July 18, 2022, available at <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2022/07/18/2196145/state-power-crisis-idineklara-sa-occidental-mindoro>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>10</sup> De los Reyes, Nikki, Mindoro reels from 14-hour power cuts, Manila Times, July 16, 2022, available at <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/16/news/regions/mindoro-reels-from-14-hour-power-cuts/1851126>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> "Renewables may cut Philippines' electricity rates 30%", available at <https://asian-power.com/power-utility/news/renewables-may-cut-philippines-electricity-rates-30>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

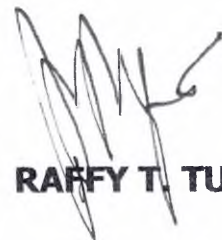
WHEREAS, residents of Camarines Norte<sup>12</sup>, Laoag City<sup>13</sup> and Olongapo City<sup>14</sup> have demanded explanations from authorities, particularly from electric cooperatives, on the rising rates of electricity despite scarcity in supply. Likewise, numerous complaints regarding unfair electricity charges and power outages, particularly from the consumers of *Oriental Mindoro, Nueva Ecija, Northern Samar, Pampanga, Batangas, Negros, Quezon Province, South Cotabato, Maguindanao, Laguna, Zamboanga, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Marinduque, Camarines Norte, Isabela, Masbate, Aurora, Bicol, Southern Leyte and Davao Oriental*, abound in different social media forums.

WHEREAS, these inexplicable power supply interruptions and power rate hikes have caused enormous discomfort, disturbance, and inconvenience to the Filipino people, essentially robbing them of their Constitutional right to quality life, not to mention the adverse effects of these energy problems to businesses and the resultant damage to their property.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for an inquiry and to investigate on these occurrences and complaints in order to find an immediate solution to an impending crisis and adopt necessary legislative measures that will provide long-term energy security, sufficiency and stability to all Filipinos.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Energy to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported persistent power outages, rotational brownouts and the rising cost of electricity in the different parts of the country, as aforementioned.

*Adopted,*



**RAFFY T. TULFO**

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<sup>12</sup> "Canoreco inulan ng reklamo hinggil sa mataas na singil sa kuryente ngayong buwan", Brigada News, May 16, 2022, available at <https://brigadanews.ph/canoreco-inulan-ng-reklamo-hinggil-sa-mataas-na-singil-sa-kuryente-ngayong-buwan/>, accessed on August 6, 2022

<sup>13</sup> "Ilocos Norte residents seek lower power rates", Philippine News Agency, July 21, 2022, available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1179427>, accessed on August 6, 2022.

<sup>14</sup> Perez, Jojo, "OEDC nagpaliwanag sa mataas na singil sa kuryente sa Olongapo", Philippine Star Ngayon, May 19, 2022, available at <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2022/05/19/2182092/oedc-nagpaliwanag-sa-mataas-na-singil-sa-kuryente-sa-olongapo>, accessed on August 6, 2022.