


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



'22 JUL 13 P2:09

SENATE
S. No. 514

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
REDUCING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES BY PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND OFFICES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9513, otherwise known as the "Renewable Energy Act of 2008" was enacted to accelerate the exploration and development of renewable energy sources to achieve energy self-reliance and minimize the country's exposure to price fluctuations of fossil fuels in the international markets. One of the renewable energy resources is solar energy which is defined as "the energy derived from solar radiation that can be converted into useful thermal or electrical energy".

According to a policy brief of the Department of Energy entitled, "It's More Sun in the Philippines: Facts and Figures on Solar Energy in the Philippines Project Development Programme (PDP) Southeast-Asia" which was developed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with Renewable Energy Developers Center (REDC) and WWF Philippines, the use of solar energy in the country has great potentials, as follows:

- Solar power creates an energy-secure Philippines. Harnessing solar power is one way to decrease dependence on the increasing and volatile prices of fossil fuels.

- Solar energy supplies significant power worldwide. Solar technologies have been tried and tested worldwide, with global cumulative installed capacity topped 100,000 megawatts (MW) in 2012.
- In the Philippines, the potential is even greater than the aspirational target of 1,528MW attributed to solar in the National Renewable Energy Plan until 2030.
- Solar energy makes sense for consumers. It provides an immediate solution to the country's energy woes. It is the only cost-effective technology that can be installed and commissioned in as short as a few days to a few months
- Solar rooftops are distributed generation. Because of the steadily falling costs of equipment, solar photovoltaics (PV) systems are becoming popular with consumers.
- Solar energy reduces the price of power sold at the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market.
- Solar is affordable - Feed-In Tariff vs. FIT-All. For the average household consuming 300 kWh a month, the price for getting clean energy is less than P1 a month, equivalent to a single candy.
- Solar energy creates jobs. Solar technology can further contribute to inclusive growth by creating thousands of new jobs.
- Solar allows greater access to energy. The deployment of solar power systems in rural areas, particularly in far-flung, off-grid barangays, will not only give rise to new job opportunities, but will also allow families to extend their activities to the evenings.
- Solar attracts investments. New solar power deployments also mean new investments that, in turn, will result in millions of pesos in additional revenue for the government.
- Solar is not only a free energy resource, but it is also the most environment-friendly energy solution.
- Solar helps reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The increased use of solar will help alleviate the harmful health effects of fossil fuel use and mitigate one of the causes of climate change.

In the recent years, a number of establishments have shifted to solar energy and this allowed them to realize significant savings in electricity consumption. SM Supermalls, for instance, launched their Solar Rooftop Project in 2014 and now have over ten (10) malls in different parts of the country and even abroad that have solar panels on their rooftops. The capacity of SM solar panels is 9,245 megawatts.

Apart from its economic benefits, the use of a renewable energy resource such as solar energy is part of our commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

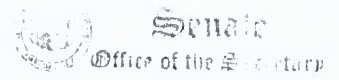
This bill proposes to establish solar energy systems in all national government buildings and offices to ensure efficient, cost-effective and sustainable supply of power which is essential to the prompt and unhampered delivery of services to its constituents. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Energy (DOE) are mandated to construct solar energy systems in and retrofit their respective buildings and offices, to supply an initial ten percent (10%) of the total electric power requirements of the government agencies to eventual fifty percent (50%) of the same.

This measure was filed by Senator Ralph G. Recto in the 18th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Solar Energy in National
2 *Government Offices Act*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

4 (a) To mandate the development and utilization of renewable energy resources
5 in government buildings and offices;

6 (b) To establish the infrastructure and mechanisms to ensure efficient, cost-
7 effective and sustainable supply of power from solar energy systems; and,

8 (c) To ensure energy-sufficiency of government agencies for the prompt and
9 unhampered delivery of services to its constituents.

10 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall provide a framework for the establishment
11 of solar energy systems in all national government buildings and offices.

12 Sec. 4. *Establishment of Solar Energy Systems in National Government*
13 *Buildings and Offices.* - All government agencies in coordination with the Department
14 of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Energy (DOE) shall
15 begin the construction of solar energy systems in and retrofit their respective buildings
16 and offices within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act: *Provided, That Solar*

1 Energy Systems shall refer to energy systems which convert solar energy into thermal
2 or electrical energy.

3 Sec. 5. *General Guidelines.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following are
4 the General Guidelines for solar energy systems in national government buildings and
5 offices:

6 (a) Establishment and construction shall immediately commence to supply
7 power to government buildings or offices;

8 (b) The Department of Finance shall apply the appropriate provisions of Chapter
9 VII General Incentives of Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy
10 Act of 2008 to the RE Systems to be established and constructed for
11 government agencies; and,

12 (c) Government agencies shall enjoy the privileges granted to qualified end-
13 users as certified by the DOE-Renewable Energy Management Bureau, as
14 provided for in Sections 10 and 12 of Republic Act No. 9513.

15 Sec. 6. *Minimum Standard.* – The solar energy systems to be established shall
16 initially supply at least ten percent (10%) of the electric power requirements of the
17 government agencies in their respective buildings or offices for the first year after the
18 effectivity of this Act: *Provided,* That solar energy utilization shall be increased
19 annually for five (5) years at which time the established solar energy systems are
20 expected to have the capacity to supply fifty percent (50%) of the power requirements
21 of government agencies: *Provided, further,* That nothing in this Act shall preclude the
22 expansion of existing solar energy systems installed in government buildings and
23 offices.

24 Sec. 7. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation
25 of this Act shall be charged against any available funds of the government agencies
26 covered in this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to implement this Act
27 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

28 Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOE shall provide the
29 necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation within
30 thirty (30) days upon the approval of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take
31 effect after they have been issued and shall be published in at least two (2)
32 newspapers of general circulation.

1 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
3 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

4 Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
5 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary
6 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or
7 amended accordingly.

8 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,