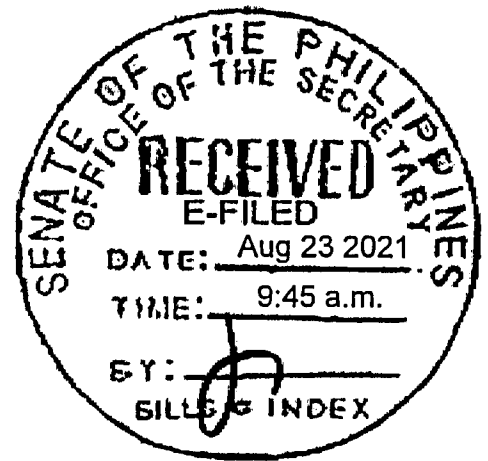


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 867

Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PLANS AND PREPARATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OTHER GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGENCIES, AND PRIVATE ENERGY STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY DURING THE 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

1 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to ensure the reliability and the security
2 of the supply of electric power¹ and to “[a]ssure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and
3 credible elections²” in the country;

4 WHEREAS, the Department of Energy(DOE) is mandated to “[e]nsure the
5 reliability, quality and security of supply of electric power” and to “[e]xercise
6 supervision and control over all government activities relative to energy projects;³”

7 WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act No. (RA) 8436⁴ as amended by RA 9369⁵
8 provides for the “use of an automated election system that will ensure the secrecy
9 and sanctity of the ballot and all election, consolidation and transmission documents

¹ Sec. 2(b) of Republic Act No. (RA) 9136 otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001. (Approved on 8 June 2001).

² Sec. 2(b) of RA 9006 otherwise known as the Fair Election Act. (Approved on 12 February 2001).

³ Sections 37(d) and 37(h) of RA 9136.

⁴ Otherwise known as An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Use an Automated Election System in the May 11, 1998 National or Local Elections and in Subsequent National and Local Electoral Exercises, Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes. (Approved on 22 December 1997).

⁵ Otherwise known as An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Use an Automated Election System in the May 11, 1998 National or Local Elections and in Subsequent National and Local Electoral Exercises, to Encourage Transparency, Credibility, Fairness and Accuracy of Elections, Amending for the Purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, as Amended, Republic Act No. 7166 and other Related Election Laws, Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes.” (Approved on 23 January 2007).

1 on order that the process shall be transparent and credible and that the results shall
2 be fast, accurate and reflective of the genuine will of the people;”

3 WHEREAS, according to Resolution No. 10695 of the Commission of Elections
4 (COMELEC), the election period of the 2022 national and local elections shall be from
5 9 January 2022 to 8 June 2022. Furthermore, the election day shall be on 9 May
6 2022;⁶

7 WHEREAS, the country has experienced recurring power interruptions during
8 the summer period, specifically from March to May,⁷ in the past years due to various
9 reasons. For instance, during the summer of 2019 and 2021,⁸ there were power
10 interruptions attributed to unplanned outages and derating of power plants,⁹ among
11 others. In particular, the brownouts in the summer of this year happened despite the
12 earlier statements from the DOE that it was optimistic that the country “will not
13 encounter major challenges or any alerts that may result to insufficiency in supply;¹⁰”

14 WHEREAS, it was reported that the DOE sees a “thinning of supply on election
15 day and thereafter¹¹” and the DOE, through Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi during a
16 Congressional hearing last 30 July 2021, had not given any commitment that
17 brownouts will no longer happen during the 2022 election period;¹²

18 WHEREAS, the DOE clarified through a virtual press conference last 17 August
19 2021 that the country will have sufficient electric power supply during the election
20 week as the initial outlook shows sufficient supply, and as such no yellow alerts and
21 power interruptions.¹³ However, the outlook does not take into consideration forced
22 and unplanned outages and the declining Malampaya supply;

23 WHEREAS, it is crucial that programs are already in place taking into account
24 all eventualities to guarantee continuous supply of electricity during the 2022
25 automated elections to ensure the credibility and transparency in the conduct of

⁶ Promulgated on 10 February 2021.

⁷ ‘Summer’ is here: Philippines’ hot dry season begins. Rappler. Available at <https://www.rappler.com/nation/weather/pagasa-statement-philippines-hot-dry-season-summer-begins-march-26-2021>. Accessed 19 August 2021.

⁸ Rotational blackouts hit Luzon again. Rappler. Available at <https://www.rappler.com/business/ngcp-alert-luzon-grid-blackouts-june-1-2021>. Accessed 18 August 2021.

⁹ Pages 18-19. TSN. Senate Committee of Energy Hearing. 25 April 2019.

¹⁰ Page 28. TSN. Joint Congressional Energy Commission Hearing. 27 April 2021.

¹¹ DOE warns of ‘thin power supply’ in May 2022 elections. Manila Bulletin. Available at <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/11/doe-warns-of-thin-power-supply-in-may-2022-elections/>. Accessed 16 August 2021. (Directly quoting DOE Undersecretary Felix William B. Fuentabella).

¹² No assurance from DOE of blackout-free elections. Manila Bulletin. Available at <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/02/no-assurance-from-doe-of-blackout-free-elections/>. Accessed 16 August 2021.

¹³ DOE Calls for Vigilance Against Inaccurate Reports. DOE. Available at <https://www.doe.gov.ph/press-releases/doe-calls-vigilance-against-inaccurate-reports>. Accessed 17 August 2021.

1 elections as well as to deliver fast and accurate results reflective of the genuine will of
2 the people;

3 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the
4 appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the plans and
5 preparations of the DOE and the entire energy family to ensure continuous supply of
6 electricity during the 2022 national and local elections.

Adopted,


WIN GATCHALIAN