

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



15 MAR -3 PA 26

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1212

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT A SHIFT TO COSTLIER FUELS HAS
RAISED POWER RATES IN MINDANAO

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides, “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all”;

WHEREAS, the Constitution also provides in Article 12, Section 1: “The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged”;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 20 February 2015 reported that consumers throughout Mindanao are being charged more for electricity as distribution firms turn to more expensive sources of power to fill the gap left by the continuing disrepair of hydropower facilities and the maintenance shutdown of a coal plant;

WHEREAS, some 68,000 customers of the Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative (Dasureco) allegedly have to pay ₱9.20 per kilowatt-hour, up from ₱8.20 per kwh;

WHEREAS, Dasureco claimed that the increase of ₱1 per kwh is for generation and transmission charges and taxes, as the shortage of electricity supply has forced the power distributor to use diesel-fed modular generator sets;

WHEREAS, hydropower plants in Mindanao reportedly could not supply enough electricity because of low water levels and repairs;

WHEREAS, the shortage was said to have worsened when a 105-megawatt coal plant owned by Steag State Power Inc. (SPT) was shut down for maintenance;

WHEREAS, SPT said the situation would not ease until March 2015, noting that up to 220 MW would be lost when the firm shuts down another coal plant until March 16;

WHEREAS, the government must address the power situation in Mindanao at minimal cost to the Filipino consumer;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must improve coordination between private power producers, electricity distributors and government agencies, in the interest of public welfare;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that a shift to costlier fuels has raised power rates in Mindanao.

Adopted,

/s/


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
PP