

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



15 APR 16 P2:30

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1285

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 RESOLUTION  
2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
3 OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE POWER SITUATION IN MINDANAO IS  
4 WORSENING

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

9 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9136, also known as the Electric Power Industry Reform  
10 Act of 2001 or EPIRA, Section 2, paragraph (b) states: "It is hereby declared the policy of the  
11 State:

12 (b) To ensure the quality, reliability, security and affordability of the supply of electric  
13 power";

14 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 6 April 2015 reported that the National Grid  
15 Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) claimed that in recent weeks, the power situation in  
16 Mindanao has worsened with the decreasing water level at the hydropower plants in Lanao and  
17 Bukidnon;

18 WHEREAS, the Lanao and Bukidnon hydropower plants account for the bulk of the  
19 island's power supply because of the dry spell that started early this year;

20 WHEREAS, a massive power outage hit Mindanao on the dawn of 5 April 2015 that  
21 reportedly affected Davao City, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Agusan, General Santos City,  
22 Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon, Surigao City, North Cotabato, South Cotabato,  
23 Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and Cotabato City for up to seven hours;

1           WHEREAS, according to the report's sources, the power went out at about 1:00 a.m. and  
2 was restored at 6:30 a.m. in Cotabato City and nearby areas; meanwhile, in Davao del Sur, the  
3 power was restored at about 7 a.m., but went out again after an hour;

4           WHEREAS, the power reportedly returned at around 4AM in several areas including  
5 Davao City and General Santos City;

6           WHEREAS, the report said that the Department of Energy (DOE) traced the Mindanao-  
7 wide power outage to the state-run Agus-Pulangi hydroelectric power complex in Lanao del Sur,  
8 where the "first tripping" at the Agus 6 and Agus 7 areas happened;


9           WHEREAS, the NGCP spokesperson Cynthia Alabanza allegedly said in a text  
10 message that all transmission substations and plants connected to backbone lines in Mindanao  
11 were synchronized to the grid as of 7:50AM and that all were running and connected to the main  
12 transmission lines;

13           WHEREAS, it was reportedly said that the last time Mindanao experienced a similar  
14 island-wide power outage was last year when the power generators of the Steag State Power  
15 Company in Misamis Oriental broke;

16           WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address the issues caused by the looming energy  
17 crisis, by providing for long-term solutions;

18           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
19 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the  
20 power situation in Mindanao is worsening.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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