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

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

**SENATE**  
**P.S. Res. No. 579**

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PANAY ISLAND POWER SITUATION WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO CONSUMERS**

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals emphasized the  
2 need to ensure "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all";<sup>1</sup>

3 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9511, enacted into law in 2008, granted NGCP the  
4 franchise to operate and maintain the business of transmitting electricity and is  
5 mandated "to support the safe and reliable operation of the transmission system";

6 WHEREAS, on 27 April 2023, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines  
7 (NGCP) placed the Visayas Grid (which includes Panay, Cebu, Negros, Leyte, Samar,  
8 and Bohol) on red alert upon detecting a grid disturbance allegedly due to the tripping  
9 of a distribution-utility (DU) line causing power plants to disengage from the  
10 transmission system<sup>2</sup>. A red alert means that the supply-to-demand balance further  
11 worsens leading to rotating power interruptions;

12 WHEREAS, on 28 April 2023, the NGCP detected another grid disturbance, this  
13 time due to the tripping of a generation facility. Nevertheless, the NGCP has  
14 downgraded the alert level to yellow<sup>3</sup> which means that the power reserves are not  
15 enough but will not necessarily lead to power outages;

<sup>1</sup> United Nations. *Goal 7*. <https://rb.gy/f0tv4>

<sup>2</sup> CNN. (29 April 2023) *Panay island still facing power outages - NGCP*.  
<https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/4/29/ngcp-visayas-grid.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

1 WHEREAS, while NGCP has reportedly addressed the initial disturbances and  
2 restored power supply, on 29 April 2023, they detected yet another grid disturbance  
3 that resulted in the disengagement of multiple Panay power plants from the Visayas  
4 grid's transmission system;<sup>4</sup>

5 WHEREAS, the system disturbance led to continuous power outages in some  
6 areas of Panay Island which includes parts of the franchise areas of Aklan Electric  
7 Cooperative (AKELCO), Capiz Electric Cooperative (CAPELCO), Antique Electric  
8 Cooperative (ANTECO), MORE Power, Iloilo Electric Cooperative (ILECO) I, ILECO II,  
9 and ILECO III;<sup>5</sup>

10 WHEREAS, NGCP is yet to determine the root cause of these recent tripping  
11 but asserted that their protocols are working as intended;<sup>6</sup>

12 WHEREAS, some news reports mention that the line fault or tripping allegedly  
13 originated from Central Negros Electric Cooperative (CENECO) which caused a domino  
14 effect within the power grid;<sup>7</sup>

15 WHEREAS, CENECO, on the other hand, claimed that there was a voltage  
16 fluctuation and frequency imbalance in the 69kV line that is under the management  
17 of NGCP, and that all electric cooperatives in Panay and Negros already issued a  
18 unified stand pointing to the NGCP as the root of the problem;<sup>8</sup>

19 WHEREAS, Iloilo electric cooperatives are likewise alarmed by NGCP's  
20 statement that the tripping was caused by distribution utilities and demanded that  
21 NGCP provide data to support its claims. They stressed that power flows in a 'one-way  
22 traffic' and if there is a fault in a DU's line, it would be isolated by a breaker to protect  
23 the system;<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> CNN. (29 April 2023) *Panay island still facing power outages – NGCP.*  
<https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/4/29/ngcp-visayas-grid.html>

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Casayuran, M. (01 May 2023). *Tulfo: Rotational brownouts might continue to pester Panay, Negros in the coming days.* <https://mb.com.ph/2023/5/1/tulfo-rotational-brownouts-might-continue-to-pester-panay-negros-in-the-coming-days-1>

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Sornito, I. (02 May 2023). *Electric coops to NGCP: 'Be man enough, admit your fault'.*  
<https://www.panaynews.net/electric-coops-to-ngcp-be-man-enough-admit-your-fault/>

1           WHEREAS, in the meantime, NGCP said that it would implement manual load  
2 dropping or rotational brownouts to maintain the integrity of the grid's power  
3 system;<sup>10</sup>

4           WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DoE) has since directed the DUs to  
5 manage their load which means they may impose rotational brownouts until the full  
6 recovery of the grid;<sup>11</sup>

7           WHEREAS, the incident also brought forth several proposals for building a  
8 secure, stable, and continuous power supply in Panay Island;

9           WHEREAS, several electric cooperatives suggested creating an alternative  
10 connection or looping transmission line from Panay Island to the main grid in Luzon  
11 instead of connecting it to the Negros Occidental sub-marine cable to prevent  
12 complete power shutdown during frequency disturbances;<sup>12</sup>

13           WHEREAS, President Bongbong Marcos has instructed NGCP to fast-track their  
14 improvement works on transmission lines from Cebu to Negros and from Negros to  
15 Panay by finishing the third stage of the Cebu-Negros-Panay backbone project. This  
16 will ensure the continuous transmission of electricity in the region and inter-  
17 connectivity as well;<sup>13</sup>

18           WHEREAS, President Marcos likewise instructed NGCP to fast-track the signing  
19 of the Ancillary Service Procurement Agreement (ASPAS) with the Energy Regulatory  
20 Commission (ERC). Ancillary services provide support in the power transmission from  
21 generators to consumers thereby maintaining the reliability of the system and  
22 managing power fluctuations;<sup>14</sup>

23           WHEREAS, these recurring power interruptions and massive blackouts have  
24 plagued Panay Island for several years now and severely impacted not only the daily  
25 lives of the people of Panay but also the economic activities in the region;

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<sup>10</sup> CNN. (29 April 2023) *Panay island still facing power outages – NGCP.*  
<https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/4/29/ngcp-visayas-grid.html>

<sup>11</sup> Jose, A. (30 April 2023). *Unstable power on Panay could persist indefinitely.*  
<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2023/04/30/520050/unstable-power-on-panay-could-persist-indefinitely/>

<sup>12</sup> Sornito, I. (02 May 2023). *Electric coops to NGCP: 'Be man enough, admit your fault'.*  
<https://www.panaynews.net/electric-coops-to-ngcp-be-man-enough-admit-your-fault/>

<sup>13</sup> Sornito, I. & Tayona, G. (02 May 2023). *MARCOS TO NGCP: FIX POWER WOES; Presidential intervention hailed.* <https://www.panaynews.net/marcos-to-ngcp-fix-power-woes-presidential-intervention-hailed/>

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

1           WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to determine the root of these grid  
2 disturbances, implement remedial measures, determine who shall be held liable to  
3 finally put an end to the blame-shifting between NGCP and the DUs, and ascertain  
4 possible franchise violations;

5           WHEREAS, there is also a need to look into long-term solutions to these power  
6 interruptions and outages within the backdrop of the 'thin' supply of power in the  
7 Visayas grid;

8           NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of  
9 the Philippines, to urge the appropriate Senate Committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in  
10 aid of legislation on the Panay Island power situation with the end in view of ensuring  
11 continuous supply of electricity to consumers.

*Adopted,*

  
**GRACE POE**