

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

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P.S. RES. No. 901

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by **SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MASSIVE POWER OUTAGE IN PANAY AND GUIMARAS ISLANDS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE POWER THEREIN**

1           WHEREAS, *Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7638* otherwise known as the  
2 "*Department of Energy Act of 1992*" provides that, it is the policy of the State,  
3 among others, to ensure a continuous, adequate, and economic supply of energy.  
4

5           WHEREAS, Goal 7 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals  
6 emphasized the need to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and  
7 modern energy for all.  
8

9           WHEREAS, on 02 January 2023, a power outage hit all major cities and  
10 provinces on Panay Island which is composed of the provinces of Iloilo, Antique,  
11 Capiz and Aklan, and the regional capital Iloilo City.<sup>1</sup>  
12

13           WHEREAS, according to news reports, the National Grid Corporation Corp. of  
14 the Philippines (NGCP), in an advisory, said that at least four hundred fifty-two (452)  
15 megawatts were in the Visayas grid due to trip off of power plants (302 MW) and  
16 maintenance shutdown (150 MW), leaving Panay Island without electricity.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1883003/power-outage-hits-panay-island>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

1 WHEREAS, Panay and Guimaras Islands are dependent on diesel power plants  
2 and a 180-MV power supply from the grid.<sup>3</sup>

3  
4 WHEREAS, no less than Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas underscored the  
5 economic repercussions of such a power outage on the local businesses in the  
6 Central Business District in Iloilo City, including Calle Real, City Hall, and the  
7 Business Park in Mandurriao.<sup>4</sup>

8  
9 WHEREAS, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Iloilo  
10 Chapter Inc. shared the same sentiments in emphasizing that “frequent power  
11 outages posed significant challenges that could compromise productivity and  
12 operational efficiency. This situation could also lead to a decline in the overall  
13 economy and hinder the city’s job creation efforts.”<sup>5</sup>

14  
15 WHEREAS, according to its Local Economic Development and Investment  
16 Promotion (LEDIP), Iloilo City lost some P400 million to P500 million in the first two  
17 (2) working days of 2024.<sup>6</sup>

18  
19 WHEREAS, while the power supply in Panay and Guimaras islands have been  
20 restored following the restoration of affected feeders, and transmission operation  
21 have been normalized on 05 January 2024, there is a need to ensure that no similar  
22 events of rotational brownouts and power interruptions shall occur as it not only  
23 undermines the access of its residents to continuous and adequate supply of energy  
24 but also has a direct economic impact.

25  
26 WHEREAS, it is necessary to determine the adequacy of laws, rules and  
27 regulations being implemented by Department of Energy and the NGCP in  
28 addressing the power blackout and unstable supply in Panay and Guimaras islands.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1883003/power-outage-hits-panay-island>

<sup>4</sup> <https://asianews.network/massive-panay-blackout-takes-toll-on-locals-business/>

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

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/visayas/officials-business-heads-call-investigation-blackout-january-2024/>

1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate  
2 Senate to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the power outage in Panay and  
3 Guimaras islands with the end in view of improving the quality of life therein through  
4 sustainable, adequate and secure energy.

*Adopted,*

  
**RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**