THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

"DA JUN 30 P10"24

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SENATE

S.B. No. <u>998</u>

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A few years ago, majority of our legislators were convinced that the cost of power will significantly go down with the passage of RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA).

Today, power consumers suffer under the ever-increasing cost of electricity. Now, in the House of Representatives, the very same proponents of RA 9136 are presently pushing for the amendment of the EPIRA law due to the continuous and rapid rise in the price of power, which may reach unmanageable levels.

Thus, it has become obvious that this law is flawed. Our leadership was pushed by external pressure to fast track an ill-conceived piece of legislation.

The recent revelation of the former Administrator of the National Electrification Administration that a P2.5 million "Payola" to Congressmen was given to ensure the passage of EPIRA is a serious charge. Earlier, it was reported that some legislators allegedly admitted that they had been coerced into approving a half-baked law, leaving several contentious issues unresolved.

If these charges are true, then we have, indeed, reached our lowest point in the annals of Congress, where laws are dictated by foreign agencies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and now, by force of financial consideration. We must ease the burden on the masses from suffering under behest and unjust laws.

This bill seeking to repeal the EPIRA is the only recourse for us to start all over again and scrutinize all the provisions that burden the people.

HNGGO

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

EJERCITO ESTRADA

Senator

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

AN ACT

REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

SECTION 1. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, Republic Act Numbered 9136 entitled "An Act Ordaining Reforms in the Electric Power Industry, Amending For the Purpose Certain Laws and for Other Purposes" is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication.

Approved,