

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 918



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Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S  
NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION  
INCLUDING ITS RECOMMENDATION TO DECLARE A NUCLEAR  
POLICY FOR THE COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Energy (DOE) is mandated to ensure a continuous, adequate, and economic supply of energy towards energy self-reliance;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the country's self-sufficiency is at 55.3% with primary energy supply consisting of coal, natural gas, renewable energy, and oil;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in the power sector alone, 50% of the gross generation in 2017 came from coal, 22% from natural gas, 11% from geothermal, 10% from hydropower, and 3% from solar, wind, and biomass;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, DOE has declared a technology neutral policy with 70% base load, 20% mid-merit, and 10% peaking energy mix;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the same agency issued Department Order No. DO2016-10-0013 entitled "Creating the Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization (NEPIO) in the Department of Energy" in order to explore the development and inclusion of nuclear energy to enhance the base load stability of the country's electricity supply;

**WHEREAS**, in the said Department Order, DOE created a Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization (NEPIO) with functions defined by three milestones: *Phase One*, producing a comprehensive study considering the nineteen (19) Infrastructure Issues<sup>5</sup> as guided by

<sup>1</sup> Sec. 2, Republic Act No. 7638 (1992)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Energy Presentation on Philippine Energy Plan 2017 - 20140

<sup>3</sup> Department of Energy 2017 Power Demand and Supply Highlights.

<sup>4</sup> Philippines Looks to New Industrial and Digital Solutions to Reach 70-20-10 Energy Mix Target. Source: <https://www.ge.com/reports/philippines-looks-new-industrial-digital-solutions-reach-70-20-10-energy-mix-target/> dated 21 August 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Energy 2017 Power Demand and Supply Highlights.

<sup>4</sup> Philippines Looks to New Industrial and Digital Solutions to Reach 70-20-10 Energy Mix Target. Source: <https://www.ge.com/reports/philippines-looks-new-industrial-digital-solutions-reach-70-20-10-energy-mix-target/> dated 21 August 2017.

<sup>5</sup> These Infrastructure Issues are: (1) national position, (2) nuclear safety, (3) management, (4) funding and financing, (5) legal framework, (6) safeguards, (7) radiation protection, (8) regulatory framework, (9) electrical grid, (10) human resource development, (11) stakeholder involvement, (12) site and supporting facilities, (13) environmental protection, (14) emergency planning, (15) nuclear security, (16) nuclear fuel cycle, (17) radioactive waste management, (18) industrial involvement, and (19) procurement.

the Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power of the International Atomic Energy Agency; *Phase Two*, building sufficient national infrastructure to prepare the country for its first nuclear power plant; and *Phase Three*, possibly exercising coordination and oversight functions once the first nuclear power plant is ready to commission and operate;

**WHEREAS**, the NEPIO had a budget of Php 39.956 million in 2018, and it will have a budget of Php 48.057 million in 2019;

**WHEREAS**, according to members of the NEPIO during the budget hearing dated 2 October 2018, the Philippines is still in Phase One, and that it had already transmitted documents to the Office of the President seeking for a declaration of a nuclear policy specifically for the use of nuclear energy for power;

**WHEREAS**, there has been no formal report by the NEPIO on the status of the comprehensive study on the nineteen (19) Infrastructure Issues, its key accomplishments last year, or its expected outputs within a given timeline;

**WHEREAS**, given the foregoing, it is important to note that the Philippines has not yet ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and the Amendment to the Convention of Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and neither does the country have comprehensive legislation on the use of nuclear energy for power or a regulator for the same;

**WHEREAS**, any discussion on jumpstarting a nuclear policy in the country has to be comprehensively studied and backed by rigorous research while taking into account the different Infrastructure Issues and how these will fit into the unique geological, political, environmental, social, economic, and regulatory realities of the Philippines;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the accomplishments of the Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization (NEPIO) since its creation through DOE Department Order No. DO2016-10-0013 issued on 24 October 2016 as well as the status of recommended national policies on utilization of nuclear energy for power.

Adopted,



**WIN GATCHALIAN**