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

RECEIVED BY



SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 894

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Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CONTINUOUS BLACKOUTS IN ILOILO, FOLLOWING THE RECENT POWER OUTAGE IN WESTERN VISAYAS, AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES TO FIND A MORE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY SUPPLY IN THE REGION.**

**WHEREAS**, on 20 February 2023 five provinces in Western Visayas (Guimaras, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Iloilo) experienced a "system disturbance" that affected the entire Panay sub-grid<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the same power outages were experienced by the provinces last April 2023<sup>2</sup> caused by the tripping of the NGCP transmission lines due to overvoltage and high system frequency<sup>3</sup>. According to Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, after the meetings with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), solutions to the power outage were identified to include crucial transmission projects, but have not been completed and the problems still prevail<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in the afternoon of 02 January 2024 Western Visayas experienced an unscheduled power interruption affecting the provinces in Panay such as Iloilo,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1195652>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/visayas/congressional-probe-visayas-power-outages/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://mb.com.ph/2023/4/30/western-visayas-reels-from-power-blackouts>

<sup>4</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1883788/iloilo-city-mayor-hits-ngcp-over-panay-island-blackouts>

Aklan, and Capiz; the island province of Guimaras; as well as some parts of Negros Island<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) said in an advisory posted on More Power Iloilo's social media page that all the power plants in Panay Island had shut down at around 2:27 pm of January 02, and soon after, the Negros- Panay grid had gone out<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the disruption began at 12:06 pm with Panay Energy Development Corp (PEDC) Unit 1 in Lapaz, Iloilo City tripping down due to internal issues which later cascaded to PEDC Unit 2, Palm Concepcion Power Corp and in other plants in Panay<sup>7</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, on 04 January 2024, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)- Iloilo lamented on the negative impact of the long and massive power blackouts in Iloilo City, other Iloilo provinces, and the rest of Panay Island. The said power outages pose a severe threat to the economy by disrupting productivity, increasing operational costs, and hampering technological advancements<sup>8</sup>. For the three (3) day brownouts, Iloilo City suffered P1.5 billion economic losses according to the Mayor Treñas<sup>9</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the widespread power disruptions pose adverse impact on the overall economy of the region compromising the productivity and operational efficiency of the people and businesses in the provinces;

**WHEREAS**, unless soonest resolved, through the adoption of new solutions including infrastructure upgrades, improved maintenance schedules, and the exploration of alternative energy resources, these power disruptions will be the bane to the continuous and uninterrupted growth and prosperity of the region; **NOW THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct as it hereby directs the Senate Committee on Energy to inquire, in aid of legislation, and investigate the root

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<sup>5</sup>[https://dailyguardian.com.ph/welcome-blackout-western-visayas-loses-power-in-new-year/#google\\_vignette](https://dailyguardian.com.ph/welcome-blackout-western-visayas-loses-power-in-new-year/#google_vignette)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/visayas/power-outage-western-visayas-january-2024/>

<sup>7</sup>[https://dailyguardian.com.ph/welcome-blackout-western-visayas-loses-power-in-new-year/#google\\_vignette](https://dailyguardian.com.ph/welcome-blackout-western-visayas-loses-power-in-new-year/#google_vignette)

<sup>8</sup> <https://mb.com.ph/2024/1/3/iloilo-bizmen-lament-negative-impact-of-blackout>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.panaynews.net/costly-incompetence-trenas-points-liability-at-ngcp-for-power-outages-p1-5-b-economic-toll/>

cause of these power outages and come up with immediate corrective actions and sustainable solutions to prevent future recurrences.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, to determine the reasons for the delay in the completion of power transmission projects in the region and hold appropriate key power players accountable for the sufferings and economic losses brought about by these massive power outages.

*Adopted,*



**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**  
*Senator*