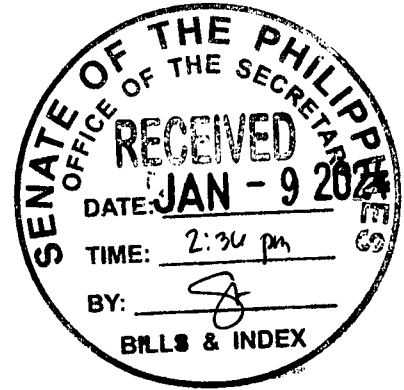


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



**SENATE**  
**P. S. Res. No. 896**

---

Introduced by: Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

---

**A RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MASSIVE BLACKOUT AND**  
**POWER DISTURBANCE IN WESTERN VISAYAS**

1           WHEREAS, on January 2, 2024, the entire Western Visayas was largely affected  
2 by a power disturbance after the tripping of multiple power plants in the Panay Island,  
3 including units of the Panay Energy Development Corporation (PEDC) and Palm  
4 Concepcion Power Corporation (PCPC), and other power plants within the Visayas grid;

5           WHEREAS, multiple unscheduled shutdowns of power plants or generation  
6 companies in the Western Visayas likewise contributed to the power interruption in the  
7 area;

8           WHEREAS, the power outages caused some 452 megawatts (MW) to be  
9 unavailable, resulting in the NGCP raising a yellow alert on the Visayas grid;

10           WHEREAS, a similar prolonged power outage in the Panay Island and parts of  
11 Negros Occidental also occurred previously in April 2023 due to a line fault;

12           WHEREAS, according to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and the National  
13 Electrification Administration (NEA), customers of Aklan Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
14 (AKELCO), Antique Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANTECO), Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
15 (CAPELCO), Guimaras Electric Cooperative, Inc. (GUIMELCO), Iloilo I Electric Cooperative,  
16 Inc. (ILECO I), Iloilo II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ILECO II), Iloilo III Electric Cooperative,

1 Inc. (ILECO III), MORE Electric and Power Corporation (MORE POWER), Northern Negros  
2 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NONECO), Central Negros Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENECO),  
3 and Negros Oriental Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NOCECO) were experiencing power  
4 interruptions;

5 WHEREAS, an official statement by the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines  
6 (NGCP) on January 5, 2024 stated that the transmission service provider can only give  
7 an overview of the current supply and demand situation and endeavor to dispatch any  
8 available power and cannot intervene in matters concerning power generation;

9 WHEREAS, in the same statement, the NGCP announced that there was no  
10 transmission disturbance before the tripping of the PEDC Unit 1 (83MW), which the NGCP  
11 was able to recover the transmission and subsequently normalized the voltage, however,  
12 hours later several power plants tripped;

13 WHEREAS, the NGCP also states that according to the data from their system,  
14 there was no abnormality in voltage and system stability;

15 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Energy (DOE), the widespread power  
16 disturbance in Western Visayas could have been prevented had the NGCP completed the  
17 230 kV Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) Backbone project on time;

18 WHEREAS, the 230 kV Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) Backbone project had been  
19 delayed at least seven (7) times from the original completion date of December 2020;

20 WHEREAS, the massive blackout likewise caused heavy damages on the  
21 households and business establishments in the provinces in the Panay and Guimaras  
22 Islands;

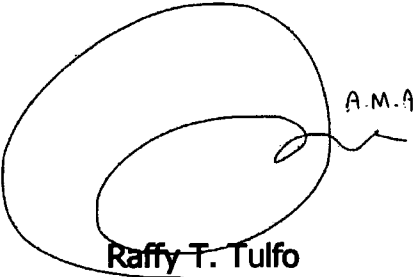
23 WHEREAS, according to reports, Iloilo City stands to lose around ₱400 Million to  
24 ₱500 Million daily or ₱1.5 Billion in just 3 days because of the massive blackout that hit  
25 the Panay Island;

1           WHEREAS, the NGCP should be made accountable for the power outages and  
2 interruptions given their responsibility to ensure the grid's stability;

3           WHEREAS, power plants, including those with unscheduled maintenance  
4 shutdowns, distribution utilities, and other responsible entities found negligent should be  
5 made accountable for their contribution to the massive blackout;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE  
7 OF THE PHILIPPINES, that the Senate Committee on Energy be directed to conduct an  
8 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the massive blackout and power disturbance in Western  
9 Visayas, including the determination of accountability of: (1) the NGCP, for its failure to  
10 ensure the grid stability and prevent a massive blackout in the Panay and Guimaras  
11 Islands; (2) the power plants, including those with unscheduled shutdowns, which  
12 deprived the grid of power supply; and (3) other responsible entities, including  
13 Distribution Utilities (DUs), that contributed to the massive blackout and power  
14 disturbance in Western Visayas.

*Approved,*



A.M.A.

**Raffy T. Tulfo**