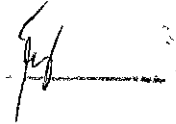


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL -2 1974

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 485

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The spiraling cost in the country's acquisition of traditional sources of energy has placed a great strain in our local economy. This, in effect has made our country over-dependent with no avenue for self-sufficiency.

It is time that we develop and harness our country's alternative indigenous resources which are not only cost-efficient but environmentally friendly and safe.


Thus, this bill seeks to develop alternative sources of energy is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL -2 2007

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 485

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM,
PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPERS, MANUFACTURERS AND
USERS OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the Non-Conventional Energy Program Act of 2007”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies.* It is hereby created a policy of the State to achieve self-reliance in the country’s every requirements through the exploitation, not only of indigenous conventional energy resources but also, of non-conventional energy resources such as, but not limited to, biomass, solar, wind, microhydro and ocean energy as inexhaustible energy sources which can bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the country. Moreover, it is also declared a policy of the State to set up the *institutional infrastructure* and provide key government inputs to develop local capabilities in the use of non-conventional energy systems, encourage their widespread commercial applications and promote their efficient utilization. Finally, the State shall promote the use of non-conventional energy systems to *supply energy required* in the rural areas for basic needs of home and industry through a comprehensive energy program.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* When used in this Act:

- (a) “Non-conventional Energy Systems” or “NES” shall refer to energy systems which use renewable energy resources applying new energy conversion or utilizing innovative technologies. These systems can be characterized as indigenous, small-scale, decentralized and modular;
- (b) “Renewable Energy Resources” shall refer to resources which do not have an upper limit on the total quantity to be used. The resources are renewed on a regular basis and the renewable rate is rapid enough to consider availability over an indefinite

period of time. Examples are biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and ocean energy;

- (c) "Biomass Energy Systems" refer to energy systems which use biomass resources such as fuelwood from forests, agricultural and industrial wastes, animal manure, fast growing trees for charcoal production, and sugarcane for ethanol fuel production through thermochemical, biochemical or physio-chemical processes to produce heat, steam and mechanical power or electricity;
- (d) "Solar Energy Systems" shall refer to energy systems which directly convert solar radiation, either through solar collectors into heat for various applications or through photovoltaic panels, into electricity;
- (e) "Wind Energy Systems" shall refer to energy systems which use wind turbines to convert the energy in the wind to rotary motion which in turn produces mechanical power as in windmills or electrical power in wind turbine systems;
- (f) "Micro-hydro Power Systems" shall refer to small hydro-based energy systems which utilize water turbines with an installed capacity of not more than 50kw as may be determined by the Office of the Energy Affairs, to convert the energy from running or falling water;
- (g) "Ocean Energy Systems" shall refer to energy systems which convert ocean current to electrical energy, otherwise known as wave and tidal power systems or ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) systems which convert thermal gradient from the ocean surface to the bottom into electrical energy; and
- (h) "Conventional Energy Systems" shall refer to energy systems using commercially-traded modern fuels such as petroleum products, coal and electricity produced from fuels, including large-scale hydro and geothermal power plants.

SEC 4. Implementing Agency/Powers and Functions. The Department of Energy (DOE) shall formulate and implement the National Non-Conventional Energy Program (NEP). In this regard, DOE shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the objectives and provisions of this Act;
- (b) Formulate and direct the implementation of a comprehensive national energy program which shall include among others, a Non-conventional Energy Promotion and Commercialization Program and an affiliated Non-conventional Energy Centers Program;
- (c) Integrate, coordinate with and provide the necessary guidelines to all government agencies and instrumentalities including government owned and controlled corporations involved in non-conventional activities, projects and programs;

- (d) Review and approve all on-going or planned non-conventional energy activities and projects supported or planned to be supported by government fund or funds obtained elsewhere through government intercession or assistance;
- (e) Formulate criteria for determining priority for proposed research, development and utilization projects on non-conventional energy and accordingly identify and select the schemes for execution, financing and funding, including official foreign development assistance without the necessity of prior approval by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA);
- (f) Designate project implementers and coordinate and monitor the progress of all planned and on-going projects of NEP funded by the program's grants-in-aid fund;
- (g) Provide necessary and appropriate support services the non-conventional energy program such as facilitation of entry of suitable foreign expertise and resources in order to accelerate the pace of technology transfer and development to local expertise, the launching of a vigorous information and promotion drive and the institution of delivery mechanisms for the dissemination of viably-proven applications;
- (h) Develop and implement specific policies encouraging the participation in the program of the private sector;
- (i) Propose and recommend in consultation with the Board of Investments, such incentives necessary and appropriate to institutions, enterprises, organizations and individuals participating in the activities and projects of the non-com energy program, and
- (j) Perform such other functions necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act.

SEC 5. Program Concept. The Non-Conventional Energy Program (NEP) shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Technology Program for developing commercial competitiveness of laboratory-proven noncon energy systems for maintaining such competitiveness by conducting technical research projects in cooperation with public and private research institutions;
- (b) The Promotion and Commercialization Program to accelerate the development of a market environment conducive for commercial use of noncon energy and to strengthen the market by provision of incentives towards a more significant participation of the private sector; and,
- (c) The Affiliated Noncon Energy Centers (ANECs) Program for setting up and/or accrediting an institution that comprehends a mechanism for promoting the use of noncom energy in rural and remote areas through a decentralized project planning and implementation strategy of establishing ANECs in provincial universities and agricultural colleges or among cooperatives

and other people's organizations that will serve as rural extension area of DEA.

SEC 6. Responsibilities of DEA. The responsibilities of DEA, among others are as follows:

- (a) Set the criteria which shall be the basis for accrediting ANECs until such time that the DEA can independently operate, supervise and coordinate ANECs operations, and evaluate ANECs performance with regards to continued participation with the program;
- (b) Council energy technology assessment studies to provide research directions for the Technology Program, establish joint projects with public or private Cooperating Research Institutions (CRIS) coordinate the activities of these various CRIs and provide financial and technical support to strengthen CRI capability to do noncom energy research work, and
- (c) Conduct activities and projects towards a conducive market environment for noncom energy use and greater private sector participation such as market studies, information dissemination, local manpower development, institutional linkaging and provision of financing and other incentives.

SEC 7. Responsibilities of ANECs. The ANECs shall provide extension support to DEA in the development and implementation of provincial-level rural noncom energy programs. The primary responsibilities are:

- (a) conduct rural energy surveys;
- (b) undertake area-based energy supply-demand studies;
- (c) conduct NES project feasibility studies;
- (d) carry out community organizing activities needed for project implementation;
- (e) provide local training in basic operation and maintenance of NES in their areas;
- (f) provide expert advise t o local NES users;
- (g) monitor program implementation and user's feedbacks and;
- (h) such other responsibilities the DEA may deem necessary;

SEC 8. Responsibilities of the CRIs. Cooperating Research Institutions (CRIs) are public or private research institutions designated by DEA which shall jointly implement the DEA activities and projects under the Technology Program. Their primary responsibilities are:

- (a) conduct pilot studies and demonstration projects;
- (b) provide technical support and consultancy services to NES users;
- (c) assist DEA in developing quality standards for NES equipment and devices;
- (d) provide services for consultancy and technical training, and;
- (e) such other responsibilities the DEA may deem necessary.

SEC 9. *Information Management Role of the DEA.* The CRIs, ANECs and the private sector involved in the NEP shall provide the DEA with information required for the effective monitoring, management and development of the Program.

SEC 10. *Privileges of the Local Manufacturers, Dealers and NonCon Energy Users.* Any local manufacturer or dealer of NES equipment and devices or noncom energy users shall have the following privileges:

- (a) All incentives as provided for by Section 39 of the Omnibus Investment Code or E.O. 266;
- (b) At the option of the taxpayer and in accordance with the procedure established by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, fixed assets acquired by the local manufacturer and the noncom energy user for establishing its capability to manufacture noncom energy system equipment and devices may be:
 - (1) Depreciated to the extent of not more than twice as fast as normal rate of depreciation if expected life in ten (10) years or less, or;
 - (2) Depreciated over any number of years between five (5) years and expected life, if the latter is more than ten (10) years and depreciation thereon allowed as deduction from taxable income: Provided, That the taxpayer notifies the Bureau of Internal Revenue at the beginning of the depreciation period which depreciation rate allowed by this Section will be used by it.

SEC 11. *Incentives to ANECs and CRIs.* Any school or institution designated by DEA either as an ANEC or a CRI, whether a public or a private agency, can be a recipient of donations from DEA so as to develop and strengthen their capabilities to perform their responsibilities under the NEP. Such may include funds, technical services, NES equipment and devices, and laboratory facilities.

SEC 12. *Incentives to Faculty Members and Students of ANECs and CRIs.* Any faculty member or student involved in any ANEC or CRI activity shall be granted the following activities:

- (a) Tasks performed by technical staff or faculty members for ANEC or CRI activity in connection with the NEP shall be credited as additional workload and they will be provided for with honoraria in accordance with guidelines defined by DEA;
- (b) Students performing tasks for ANEC and CRI activity in connection with the NEP can obtain academic credits for such activities subject to the approval of the school authorities. The students will also be financially compensated for the tasks performed in accordance with the guidelines set by the DEA;

SEC 13. *Financial Assistance Program.* Government financial institutions such as the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Philippine National Bank (PNB), the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and such other government institutions are now engaged or may hereafter engage in financing of investment operations in accordance with and to extent allowed by enabling provisions of their respective charters or applicable laws, accord high priority to applications for financial assistance by individuals/enterprises/industries participating in the NEP as duly recommended and endorsed by the DEA.

SEC 14. *Program Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year appropriations of the Office of the Energy Affairs. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for the operation and maintenance of the Non-Conventional Energy Program shall be included in the budget of the Office of Energy Affairs under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 15. *Assistance by Other Government Agencies, Offices and Corporations.* All government agencies and instrumentalities including government-owned and controlled corporations in addition to being implementers of the comprehensive national energy program when so designated shall extend whatever assistance maybe required by the Office of Energy Affairs including but not limited to, the detail to the Office of their employees, scientists and technical personnel.

SEC 16. *Penalty Clause.* Any person who willfully violates any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than two (2) years or not more than five (5) years, or both at the discretion of the court: *Provided*, That if the violation is committed by a juridical person, the penalty provided shall be imposed on the official or employee thereof responsible for the violation: *Provided further*, that if the violation is committed by a government official or employee including those in government-owned or controlled corporations, he shall, in addition to the penalty provided, be subject to disciplinary administrative proceedings and penalties.

SEC 17. *Separability Clause.* If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 18. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations or part thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 19. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,