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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session **)**

S E N A T E

P.S. RES. No. 425

Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALARMING FREQUENCY OF RED AND YELLOW ALERTS ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT HAVE RESULTED IN POWER INTERRUPTIONS IN VISAYAS AND LUZON WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING POWER STABILITY AND RELIABILITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, Section 2(b) of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 or EPIRA, declares the policy of the State to ensure the quality, reliability, security, and affordability of the supply of electric power;

WHEREAS, during the period of May 12 to May 31, 2026, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) – as system operator of the Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao grids – declared the Visayas Grid to be on red alert[1] for approximately 22 interval hours, and on yellow alert[2] for approximately 93 interval hours;

WHEREAS, during the same period, NGCP declared the Luzon grid to be on red alert for approximately 27 interval hours, and on yellow alert for approximately 5.5 interval hours;

[1] The Philippine Grid Code (2016) defines a red alert as an alert notice issued by the System Operator when the Primary Reserve is zero, a generation deficiency exists, or there is Critical Loading or Imminent Overloading of transmission lines or equipment. In simpler terms, it means that available power supply is insufficient to meet consumer demand.

[2] The Philippine Grid Code (2016) defines a yellow alert as a notice issued by the System Operator when the Primary Reserve is less than the capacity of the largest Synchronizing Generating Unit or power import from a single interconnection, whichever is higher. In simpler terms, it means that available power reserves are thin.

WHEREAS, reasons cited by NGCP for the recurring instances of insufficient or thin power supply include forced outages of power plants, plants running on derated capacity, and increased forecasted system demand;

WHEREAS, the NGCP noted that some forced outages of power plants have extended for periods of months or even years – as far back as 2019 for a plant on the Luzon Grid, and 2021 for a plant on the Visayas Grid;

WHEREAS, as of May 26, 2026, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) estimates as 92% probability of El Niño developing in the June-July-August 2026 season, to persist until early 2027[3];

WHEREAS, PAGASA stated that the probable El Niño episode may strengthen to moderate or strong levels by September-October-November 2026, perhaps even escalating into a stronger Super El Niño episode by the fourth quarter of 2026 or January 2027[4];

WHEREAS, PAGASA has noted that the occurrence of El Niño may result in below-normal rainfall in several areas, thus impacting, among other things, energy supply[5];

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) projects that power supply alerts will likely continue as El Niño sets in[6], as it will impact factors such as water supply of hydro power plants and increased consumer electricity demand due to high temperatures;

WHEREAS, securing stable and reliable electricity supply throughout the country is essential to strengthening economic activity as we seek to rebound from the weakened economic growth observed during the first quarter of 2026;

WHEREAS, reliable power supply is also critical to promoting the welfare of Filipino families, whose livelihood, health, and general wellbeing may be greatly affected by frequent power interruptions at home and within the community;

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[3] PAGASA's El Niño/La Niña monitoring system may be viewed here: https://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climate/el-nino-la-nina/monitoring

[4] Acor Arceo, *PAGASA: El Niño has 79% chance of emerging within months*, Rappler, April 22, 2026, *available at*: https://www.rappler.com/philippines/weather/pagasa-el-nino-alert-april-2026/ (last accessed on June 1, 2026).

[5] *Id.*

[6] Lisbet K. Esmael, *DOE: El Niño may lead to more power alerts*, Inquirer.net, May 19, 2026, *available at*: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2230875/doe-el-nino-may-lead-to-more-power-alerts (last accessed on June 1, 2026).

WHEREAS, insufficient power supply across the country further exacerbates the present conditions of the international energy crisis, to the great detriment of Filipino industries, businesses, and families;

WHEREAS, insufficient power supply is a serious concern that requires a whole-of-nation approach, combining the powers of private industry and government entities to craft and implement impactful solutions to the problem;

WHEREAS, immediate action must be taken by all electric power industry participants, including the DOE and the Energy Regulatory Commission, to fix power supply issues before they contribute to further deterioration of economic and social conditions in 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, into the alarming frequency of red and yellow alerts issued by the NGCP that have resulted in power interruptions in Visayas and Luzon, with the end view of (a) ascertaining the true status and power supply outlook of the Philippines, (b) ensuring power stability and reliability across the country as a whole, and especially within particularly electricity-insecure areas under prevailing conditions, (c) holding accountable any electric power industry participants who may be remiss in their duties and obligations, (d) ensuring that generation companies comply with the highest standards, practices, methods, and procedures applicable to well-performing electric power industries around the world, (e) crafting and implementing responsive and effective government interventions by relevant public entities to complement the activities of private power sector players, and (f) ensuring the strict enforcement of all relevant laws, rules, and regulations, including demand side management through the faithful implementation of Republic Act No. 11258 or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act.

Adopted,

WIN GATCHALIAN