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**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*



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**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 47**

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN**

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**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO  
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLANS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO POWER  
SUPPLY SHORTAGES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE QUALITY,  
RELIABILITY, SECURITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF ELECTRIC POWER  
SUPPLY IN THE COUNTRY**

1 WHEREAS, Sections 5(a) and 5(d) of RA 7638, as amended, or the Department  
2 of Energy Act of 1992, mandate the Department of Energy (DOE) to “[f]ormulate  
3 policies for the planning and implementation of a comprehensive program for the  
4 efficient supply and economical use of energy” and to “[e]nsure the reliability, quality  
5 and security of supply of electric power;”

6 WHEREAS, power outages especially in the summer season have been a  
7 recurring concern for the past years. In relation thereto, the Senate Committee of  
8 Energy has conducted a total of three (3) hearings since 2016;

9 WHEREAS, during the 16 August 2016 hearing of the Senate Committee on  
10 Energy, the DOE reported power supply shortages and the issuance of yellow alerts<sup>1</sup>  
11 and red alerts<sup>2</sup> in July and August of that year due to forced outages, planned outages,  
12 and derated plants which lowered the available reserves. As such, DOE offered  
13 medium and long-term measures to address the supply shortage which include

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<sup>1</sup> Yellow alert refers to “a notice issued by the System Operator when the Primary Reserve is less than the capacity of the largest Synchronized Generating Unit or power import from a single interconnection, whichever is higher.” (2016 Philippine Grid Code, Approved by Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on 5 October 2016 through ERC Resolution No. 22 Series of 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Red Alert refers to “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.” (2016 Philippine Grid Code, Approved by ERC on 5 October 2016 through ERC Resolution No. 22 Series of 2016.)

1 revisitation of the protocols on planned maintenance schedules, additional baseload  
2 capacity, and the fast-tracking of construction of transmission lines;<sup>3</sup>

3 WHEREAS, despite these proposed solutions, another hearing was conducted  
4 by the Committee on 25 April 2019, where DOE mentioned power supply shortages  
5 and yellow alerts and red alerts in March and April 2019. According to DOE, these  
6 were caused by several unplanned outages and derating of power plants caused by  
7 technical or operational issues. DOE also said that it met with different power  
8 generation companies and issued advisories reminding them of their mandate;<sup>4</sup>

9 WHEREAS, once again the issue of power supply shortage was heard by  
10 Congress, but this time by the Joint Congressional Energy Commission, last 27 April  
11 2021 to discuss the possibility of yellow alerts from March to June 2021 due to  
12 extended outages and preventive maintenance of power plants. DOE gave assurances  
13 that the country "will not encounter major challenges or any alerts that may result to  
14 insufficiency in supply as far as our consumers are concerned;"<sup>5</sup> Despite the guarantee  
15 of DOE, some areas of Luzon experienced rotational brownouts on 31 May and 1 June  
16 2021 due to red alerts.

17 WHEREAS, on 10 June 2021, 17 June 2021 and 1 July 2021, three hearings  
18 were conducted by the Senate Committee on Energy with the goal to provide long  
19 term solutions for power outages. Some of the solutions proposed during these  
20 hearings are the following: i) for the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines  
21 (NGCP) to contract firm ancillary services through competitive selection process, ii) to  
22 address delays in the completion of transmission lines and implementation of the  
23 Transmission Development Plan, iii) to launch the reserves market, and iv) to address  
24 delay problems in the implementation of the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop so that  
25 permits of power plants can be fast-tracked;

26 WHEREAS, it is crucial to be apprised of updates on the implementation of these  
27 proposed solutions to protect the public and the economy from losses due to power  
28 outages and the resulting high prices of electricity due to limited power supply;

29 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the  
30 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the plans

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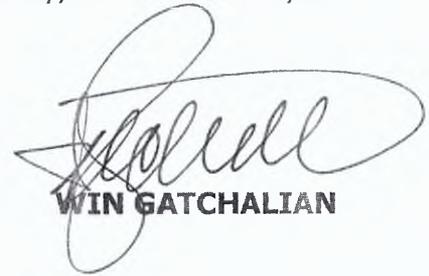
<sup>3</sup> Page 15-26. Senate Committee of Energy Hearing. 16 August 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Pages 11-12. TSN. Senate Committee of Energy Hearing. 25 April 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Pages 24-237. TSN. Joint Congressional Energy Committee Hearing. 27 April 2021.

- 1 of the Department of Energy to provide long-term solutions to power supply shortages
- 2 with the end in view of ensuring the quality, reliability, security, and affordability of
- 3 electric power supply in the country.

Adopted,



**WIN GATCHALIAN**