RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POWER SUPPLY SHORTAGE THAT LED TO POWER OUTAGES IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LAWS THAT WILL ENSURE CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF POWER IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Administration (PAGASA) forecasts and pegged the heat index at 40.9 degrees Celsius at the Science Garden in Quezon City;

WHEREAS, the unbearable heat has led to increase in power use for cooling devices such as air conditioners and electric fans;

WHEREAS, the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) has called on power industry players as well as policymakers in April of 2021 to address an “impending power supply shortage in Luzon”, however, the Department of Energy (DOE) downplayed NGCP’s initiative stating that supply and demand projections has shown that a red alert was not possible;

WHEREAS, during the recent Senate Energy Committee hearing, DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi informed of the power generating capacity supply shortage, a clear contrast to the agency statement in April;

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2021, three large power plants went offline – the 668-MW unit of the GNP Dinginin coal-fired power plant in Bataan, the 435-MW San Roque Hydroelectric Power Plant in Pangasinan, and the 647-MW unit of the Sual Coal-fired Power Plant in Pangasinan, contributing to the power shortage, causing NGCP to raise red alert warning for Luzon power grid due to severe power deficiency;
WHEREAS, with the power shortage situation, MERALCO is forced to implement two-hour rotating power interruption in affected areas covered by its franchise;

WHEREAS, considering the extreme heat that the entire country experiences during the dry season, notwithstanding the effect of the rotating brownouts to our people who are under work-from-home setup due to the pandemic, including the effect of power outages to storage areas of the country’s COVID19 vaccines – wherein cold temperature is required, it is imperative that these concerns be looked into and investigated to address such problems, and craft policies to ensure continuous flow and supply of electricity for our people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives that the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability and the Committee on Energy, and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the power supply shortage that led to power outages in the Philippines, with the end in view of enacting laws that will ensure continuous supply of power in the country.

Adopted,

ENRICO A. PINEDA
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