

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2804



Introduced by **REP. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2020, the Philippines was reported to have sourced 55% of its power from coal-fired power plants, while natural gas-fired power plants contributed 21%, and oil-based power plants brought in 4%. On the other hand, renewable energy sources which include solar, hydro, wind, and geothermal generate around 20% of the country's power supply.

It bears emphasis that fossil fuels, including coal, oil, and natural gas, are finite and non-renewable energy resources, having formed over geological epochs from the remains of ancient flora and fauna. Upon combustion, these release significant amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, thereby exacerbating and contributing to climate change. Conversely, renewable energy sources are naturally replenishing and do not diminish over time. As such, they are more sustainable and environmentally advantageous. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the country's economic development, it is imperative to intensify efforts in harnessing and advancing renewable energy sources. This is critical in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and essential in addressing the escalating costs and finite nature of fossil-based energy resources.

This legislative measure seeks to reduce government electricity expenditures by mandating the development and utilization of solar energy systems in all government buildings and facilities. It is anchored upon the State's mandates to promote "a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation" (Article II, Section 9, 1987 Philippine Constitution), and to "protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature" (Article II, Section 16).

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is respectfully and earnestly sought

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos".

FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS

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AN ACT
REDUCING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY FOR NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT OFFICES BY PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND
UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS
AND OFFICES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 and referred to as the "Solar Energy in National Government Offices Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- a) To mandate the development and utilization of renewable energy resources in government buildings and offices;
- b) To establish the infrastructure and mechanisms to ensure efficient, cost-effective and sustainable supply of power from solar energy systems; and
- c) To ensure energy-sufficiency of government agencies for the prompt and unhampered delivery of services to its constituents.

SEC. 3. Coverage. - This Act shall provide a framework for the establishment of solar energy systems in all national government buildings and offices.

SEC. 4. Establishment of Solar Energy Systems in National Government Buildings and Offices. - All government agencies in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Energy (DOE) shall begin the construction of solar energy systems in and retrofit their respective buildings and offices upon the effectivity of this Act.

Solar energy systems shall refer to energy systems which convert solar energy into thermal or electrical energy.

SEC. 5. *General Guidelines.* – For purposes of this Act, the following are the general guidelines for solar energy systems in national government buildings and offices:

- a) Establishment and construction shall immediately commence to supply power to government buildings and offices;
- b) The Department of Finance shall apply the appropriate provisions of Chapter VII General Incentives of Republic Act No. 9513, or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, to the renewable energy systems to be established and constructed for government agencies; and
- c) Government agencies shall enjoy the privileges granted to qualified end-users as certified by the DOE-Renewable Energy Management Bureau, as provided for in Sections 10 and 12 of R. A. No. 9513.

SEC. 6. *Minimum Standard.* – The solar energy systems to be established shall initially supply at least ten per cent (10%) of the electric power requirements of the government agencies in their respective buildings or offices for the first year after the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That solar energy utilization shall be increased annually for five (5) years at which time the established solar systems are expected to have the capacity to supply fifty percent (50%) of the power requirements of government agencies: *Provided, further*, That nothing in this Act shall preclude the expansion of existing solar energy systems installed in government buildings and offices.

SEC. 7. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be charged against any available funds of the government agencies covered in this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days upon the approval thereof. Such rules and regulations shall take effect after they have been issued and shall be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions thereof, as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, administrative issuances and rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,