

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3235**



Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Electricity is a vital component of our daily lives, especially in the operation of transportation systems and infrastructure, the education sector, health facilities, and the overall operations of both the government and the private sector. However, the onslaught of typhoons regularly destroys electric power lines, poles, and other components of our electrical system, resulting in the interruption of numerous functions, including health service delivery, communications, disaster response, and other forms of social welfare services to affected communities.

In these circumstances, line workers are considered first responders and at the forefront of fixing distribution lines during clearing and electrical restoration operations. Line workers of electrical cooperatives also conduct *bayanihan* efforts, especially in hard-hit areas by typhoons, such as in 2020 when, Typhoon Rolly struck the Bicol region, where 306 line workers volunteered.¹ Line workers are also essential in implementing the government's total electrification and rural development agenda, despite the safety and life risks they face in fulfillment of their duty.

Further, line workers are fundamental in fiber optic installation, telecom infrastructure maintenance, and transmission line construction and maintenance, which are all vital in ensuring internet connectivity. Despite these, line workers remain one of the most underrated sectors in our workforce.

Section 18, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare." In accordance with this constitutional mandate, and in recognition of the significant role our line workers play in our country, this bill seeks to:

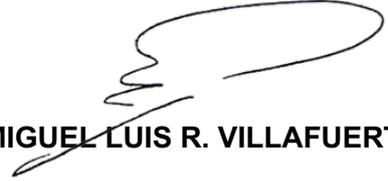
- Declare the first Monday of August of every year as National Line Workers Appreciation Day.
- Mandate the National Electrification Administration to conduct lecture sessions for line workers alongside other stakeholders and spearhead the conduct of an annual national convention.
- Encourage the Department of Energy and private distribution utilities to conduct activities for the meaningful observance of the celebration.

This bill was passed on third reading during the 19th Congress, showing the

¹ Velasco, M. M. (2020, November 3). ECs deploy over 300 line workers on Bicol power restoration. *Manila Bulletin*. <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/3/ecs-deploy-over-300-line-workers-on-bicol-power-restoration>

overwhelming recognition of line workers' contributions in our society.

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



HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE



HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE



HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA



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AN ACT PROCLAIMING THE FIRST MONDAY OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS LINE WORKERS APPRECIATION DAY

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 "National Line Workers Appreciation Day Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* – The State recognizes the country's continued economic growth and development by maintaining a reliable supply of electricity to the different industries and households, through a well-maintained electricity distribution and transmission system. Thus, it acknowledges the role of the electrical line workers in the quest for sustainable rural development through total electrification of the countryside and appreciates the contribution of our line workers in nation-building.

SECTION 3. *National Line Workers Appreciation Day.* – The first Monday of August of every year is hereby declared as National Line Workers Appreciation Day.

SECTION 4. *Program of Activities.* – The National Electrification Administration (NEA) shall, in coordination with other stakeholders in the power industry including electric cooperatives, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, National Transmission Corporation, Private Electric Power Operators Association, Manila Electric Company and other organizations employing line workers, shall conduct lecture sessions for line workers, such as, trainings and seminars to ensure the significance of the National Line Workers Appreciation Day and its meaningful observance.

The NEA shall spearhead the conduct of an annual national convention as part of the program of activities for this day. Electric cooperatives shall likewise support the NEA in all its efforts to promote and facilitate related activities.

The Department of Energy and private distribution utilities, including power transmission companies and telecommunications companies, are hereby enjoined to launch activities such as training, seminars, and learning sessions for line workers in celebration of the National Line Workers Appreciation Day.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, and repealed accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,