

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

Seventeenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8337



Introduced by Honorable Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There was a time when the cost of developing alternative sources of energy, particularly solar energy, was so prohibitive that policy-makers simply found it unfeasible to explore as a viable replacement for oil and coal. However, in view of the growing awareness of the need to reduce our carbon footprint, the political volatility of oil and its certain depletion in the near future, as well as the inherent risks attendant to nuclear power, an increasing number of countries, led by Germany, is proving that solar and other renewable sources of energy are becoming economically feasible.

While the country today has many hydroelectric plants, geothermal plants which are among the biggest in the world, and even an incipient wind energy installation, these alternative sources of energy are far from being sufficient to meet our ever growing need for power. For several years now, the Philippines has been registering one of the fastest GDP growth in the entire world and it stands to reason that we explore additional sources of energy if only to sustain the robust economic growth that we have been enjoying. As a tropical country, it is also but logical that we explore the sun as an abundant and practically inexhaustible source of our energy needs.

In the Philippines, it appears that the private sector is taking the lead in developing and promoting the use of solar energy as an alternative to fossil and other "dirty" fuels. There is therefore a need to come up with a regulatory regime and coherent policies and strategies with respect to this relatively new economic and scientific development. The establishment of one agency that would be responsible for the promotion of solar energy would represent a giant step towards the attainment of the

country's goals of achieving energy independence and environmentally-sound policies.

In view of all the foregoing considerations, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.
Representative
Second District of Laguna

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AN ACT
CREATING THE SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created the Solar Energy Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as the "Authority", which shall undertake to do research and promote the development and utilization of solar energy.

SEC. 2. The powers and functions of the Authority shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of a Chairman and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments. The Chairman and two (2) members shall serve for a term of four (4) years, while the remaining two (2) members shall be *ex-officio* members, who shall be composed of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Science and Technology, or their representatives. They shall

receive compensation as may be fixed by the President of the Philippines which shall not exceed those given to Commissioners of Constitutional bodies. No person shall be appointed Chairman or members of the board unless he is a natural born Filipino citizen, at least thirty (30) years of age, of good moral character and must have recognized competence in the fields of science and technology.

SEC. 3. The Board of Directors shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a) Prepare and issue rules and regulations it considers necessary for the effective discharge of its functions;

b) Direct the management, operations and administration of the Authority;

c) Adopt and use a corporate seal;

d) Enter into contracts and other agreements;

e) Sue and be sued;

f) Appoint such officers and employees as are not otherwise provided for in this Act, define their duties, fix their compensation, discipline and dismiss anyone of them for cause, subject to civil service rules and regulations; and

g) Exercise such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry out the functions of the Authority.

SEC. 4. The Authority shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Conduct extensive research on alternative sources of energy;
- b) Formulate a comprehensive policy for the research, development and utilization of alternative sources of energy;
- c) Implement the government program on the allocation, distribution and sale of alternative sources of energy; and
- d) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. The Chairman shall be the Chief Operation Officer. In case of absence or inability to act on the part of the chairman, the Board shall designate who among its members shall act as Chairman.

SEC. 6. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriation of the Department of Science and Technology under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuous operation of the Authority shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. The Secretary of Science and Technology shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,