

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 163



Introduced by Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta and Rep. Caroline L. Tanchay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to accelerate the utilization of Renewable Energy resources in the country for self-sufficiency and cleaner energy, consistent with Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008.

In 2011, the government, through the National Renewable Energy Program, has set a target to triple its renewable energy-based installed capacity by the year 2030. However, recent data provide that the share of Renewable Energy in the power generation mix has declined, *i.e.*, from 34% in 2008 to 21% in 2021 of the total power generated.¹ This triggered a realignment of the country's energy goals by the Department of Energy (DOE) through its amended Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) 2020-2040. In the PEP, the country is now aiming to achieve 35% renewable energy in the total power generation mix by 2030, then 50% by 2040. To attain this, 73,900 MW of additional capacity for renewable energy is required.²

One of the most reliable and least carbon-intensive means of electricity generation is solar energy. During the energy generation, solar power produces no emissions and smaller carbon footprint in total.³ Solar energy has a huge potential to expand efficient power generation and increase the percentage of clean energy in the country's generation mix.

To accelerate the country's renewable energy capacity and to streamline operations for efficiency, which will benefit the people, the environment, and the country as a whole, it is valuable to further tap and increase the solar energy capacity of the country by establishing a Solar Park in the Laguna Bay, an area with promising

¹ New RE Plan Targets 35% Share of Power Generation by 2030, 13 November 2021, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1159659>

² PH Wants 35% Renewables in Energy Mix by 2030, 50% by 2040, 18 October 2021, <https://business.inquirer.net/332679/ph-wants-35-renewables-in-energy-mix-by-2030-50-by-2040>

³ The Promise of Solar Energy: a Low-Carbon Energy Strategy for the 21st Century, <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/promise-solar-energy-low-carbon-energy-strategy-21st-century>

potential for large-scale floating solar projects.⁴ With reliable research and study, the Laguna Bay area may also be used for other potential renewable energy projects.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



RODANTE D. MARCOLETA



CAROLINE L. TANCHAY

⁴ Laguna Bay to Host Solar Projects, 19 February 2022,
<https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/02/19/business/green-industries/laguna-bay-to-host-solar-projects/1833433>

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 163

Introduced by Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta and Rep. Caroline L. Tanchay

AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE)
PARK OVER LAGUNA BAY TO ACCELERATE THE RENEWABLE ENERGY
CAPACITY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THIS
PURPOSE

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “*Laguna Bay Solar Park Development Act of 2022*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives* – It is the policy of the State to accelerate the exploration and development of renewable energy resources, including solar power, to attain sustainability, energy self-reliance, and promotion of efficient and cost-effective commercial application of renewable energy systems.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Laguna Bay Renewable Energy Park* – There shall be established on Laguna Bay, Province of Laguna, a *Renewable Energy Park*, which will, initially be an exclusive zone of solar power farms and projects. The *Renewable Energy Park* shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of the Energy, which shall determine the maximum energy capacity of the *Renewable Energy Park*. The Laguna Bay may be used for the development and operation of other renewable energy projects such as hydropower facilities, subject to the review and approval of the DOE.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations* – The amount as may be necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of the DOE. Thereafter, the fund necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Energy, as the lead agency, together with the ERC, and other public and private stakeholders representing consumers and sectors affected by this Act, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations of this Act; *Provided*, That prior to its effectivity, the draft of the IRR shall be posted at the DOE website for at least one month, and shall be published in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause* - If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or any part thereof shall be held unconstitutional and invalid, the other parts or provisions of this Act, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, decrees, issuances, orders, letters of instructions, administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,