

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2611



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our country ranked 17th as the most affected country from extreme weather events in the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index.¹ With an average of twenty (20) storms and typhoons annually, our country is undeniably vulnerable to both economic and social challenges brought by these disasters.² One of which was the predicament of affected communities on electricity supply. With extreme weather events, the electric power lines, poles, and other components of our electrical system always face severe consequences. These transcended to interruption in communication, health service delivery, and disaster response efforts of government, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders to disaster-affected areas.

In these circumstances, our linemen play an essential role to fix distribution lines instantly. After the onslaught of disasters, they risk their safety and lives to take immediate and necessary actions during clearing and electrical restoration operations. In some situations, linemen faced miserable conditions often resulting to death. Aside from their contribution during calamities, linemen also ensure continuous electricity in case of any destruction in our electrical system through pole repairs and maintenance, among others. They also play a vital role in ensuring electrification of far-flung areas in the country in line with the government's objective of total electrification towards rural development. Despite these, linemen remained to be one of the most underrated sectors in our labor force.

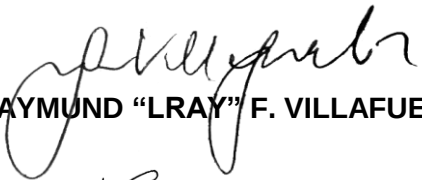
Therefore, this bill aims to declare first Monday of August of every year as National Linemen Appreciation Day. As part of the nationwide celebration, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) is mandated to conduct lecture sessions for linemen, such as, trainings and seminars to ensure the meaningful observance of the celebration. This bill also mandates the NEA to organize an annual convention supported by electric cooperatives while the

¹https://cpbrd.congress.gov.ph/images/PDF%20Attachments/Facts%20in%20Figures/FF2021-09_Global_Climate_Risk.pdf

²<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jan/05/filipinos-count-cost-of-climate-crisis-as-typhoons-get-ever-more-destructive>

Department of Energy and private distribution utilities are encouraged to launch activities such as trainings, seminars and learning sessions for linemen.

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



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.



TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA



MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE



NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

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AN ACT
PROCLAIMING THE FIRST MONDAY OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS
LINEMEN 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 Linemen Appreciation Day Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* – The State recognizes the country's continued economic growth and development by maintaining reliable supply of electricity to the different industries and households, through a well-maintained distribution and transmission electrical 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 Linemen Appreciation Day.* – The first Monday of August of every year is hereby declared as National Linemen 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, Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association, Manila

Electric Company and other organizations employing linemen, shall conduct lecture sessions for linemen, such as, trainings and seminars to ensure the significance of the National Linemen 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 trainings, seminars and learning sessions for linemen in celebration of the National Linemen 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,