

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. **2921**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARNOLFO "ARNIE" A. TEVES, JR.

AN ACT
MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO UTILIZE THE BATAAN
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OR ACQUIRE ANOTHER NUCLEAR POWER
FACILITY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), a nationally owned public asset which started construction in 1975 with a cost of US \$2.118 Billion is a sitting duck and its potential is yet to be seen. Due to some technical and political issues, such magnanimous project did not operate and the supposed utilization did not come into fruition.

On various occasions, experts in the field both foreign and local have visited and studied the operation of BNPP with no less than our very own Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, urging the government to revive the nuclear power plant.

The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant is currently inactive. This nuclear power plant has a huge potential for producing inexpensive electrical power for the country. With the continuous spiraling of electricity prices, alternative sources of energy must be utilized to lower the cost of electricity. Available sources of energy are: fossil fuel (which is fast depleting) and nuclear energy. Countless studies have shown that nuclear energy is cheaper in cost. Lower power cost contribute to positive multiplier effects on production and progress. In the event this nuclear power plant is no longer feasible for operation, I urge the government to construct another nuclear plant or a nuclear barge (which is safer against earthquakes) so that Filipinos can avail lower electricity cost.

There are 441 nuclear power plants operating in 30 countries that generate power and in turn, lower the risk of power shortages in their domains. The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant will help our country cut electricity cost by almost half, in comparison to the rates of coal-fired power plants.

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Nuclear Power Plants can run without any interruptions, making it a more reliable source of energy. This shows that nuclear power is a safe means of generating electricity and can help meet our country's demands.

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


ARNOLFO "ARNIE" A. TEVES, JR.
Representative
3rd District of Negros Oriental

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SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as "*THE PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR ACT OF 2022*"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby the declared policy of the state to develop nuclear energy as a distinct and substantial part of the country's energy mix. Further, nuclear power is a way to address the spiraling cost of electricity. The halting of traditional fossil fuel in generating energy has been proven to produce toxic substances and radioactive elements. The utilization of nuclear energy will be a monumental means of alleviating the problem on global warming and climate change.

SECTION 3. Mandate to Rehabilitate. – The National Power Corporation and the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute are hereby mandated and authorized to rehabilitate and commission and certify the commercial operation of Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Both agencies shall be directly under the control and supervision of the Department of Energy.

The DOE, DENR, DOST, NPC and PNRI shall conduct an initial validation on the feasibility of BNPP operations. The initial validation will review the original plans and specifications, build documents, and reinspect the facility in comparison with other existing power plants abroad.

The DENR, NPC, DOST and PNRI shall make public their report on the assessment and evaluation of the BNPP.

If the DOE, NPC, DOST, NPC and PNRI will, after validation of BNPP, approve the operation, rehabilitation, reconstruction and repair, must immediately be conducted, in line with internationally accepted nuclear power industry standards.

SECTION 5. Environmental Impact Assessment. – The DENR shall make public any recommendation affecting the quality of human environment. For this purpose, a final environmental impact statement prepared by the Secretary of DENR must be issued.

SECTION 4. Waste Management. – Any or all low level waste material which will emanate from the repair, reconstruction and refurbishment of the BNPP shall be discarded in accordance with the standards of PNRI.

SECTION 5. Hiring of Technical Personnel. – After findings of possible operations by the DOE, DOST, DENR, NAPOCOR and PNRI, the agencies may engage the services of skilled manpower for the management and operations of all technical aspects of the plant.

SECTION 6. Implementation Plan. – The DOE, DOST, DENR, NAPOCOR and PNRI must, in the event that the operation of BNPP will be approved, come up with an Implementation Plan taking into consideration emergency and preparedness plan.

SECTION 7. Authority of the President. – Only the President of the Republic of the Philippines, after favorable recommendation by the DOE, DENR, DOST, NAPOCOR and PNRI, has the authority to determine and decide the final commercial use of the plant.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DOE, DENR, DOST, NAPOCOR and PNRI shall after sixty (60) days following the enactment of this Act, issue implementing rules and regulations relative to this.

SECTION 9. Funding. – An initial Php100,000,000.00 shall be allocated for the initial technical study and evaluation of the BNPP, to be sourced from the General Appropriations Act of 2023.

SECTION 10. Congressional Oversight Committee. – There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee composed of the Chairman of the Congressional Committee on Energy Affairs and Senate Committee on Energy Affairs with four members each who shall be tasked to make public any findings or recommendations made by the DOE, DENR, DOST, NAPOCOR and PNRI. Further, the Congressional Oversight Committee shall perform its task and function as provided for by its own rules.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutionally inoperative, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in effect.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the Act or the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity Clause. – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation whichever comes first.

Approved,