

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 8711

Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The national government operates thousands of offices, schools, hospitals, and public facilities across the country, all of which require substantial and continuous electricity to deliver essential services to the Filipino people. **As electricity and fuel prices remain volatile and subject to global market fluctuations, the cost of powering these facilities continues to place an increasing burden on public funds.**

In recent years, rising electricity costs –largely influenced by the fluctuating prices of fossil fuels, have significantly affected government operating expenses. These recurring expenditures reduce the resources that could otherwise be directed toward vital public programs and services.

The Philippines, however, is endowed with abundant solar energy throughout the year. Harnessing this renewable resource provides the government with a practical and sustainable opportunity to reduce electricity consumption from conventional sources, and stabilize long-term energy costs.

This measure mandates the integration and use of solar energy systems in government infrastructure, buildings, and offices nationwide. By gradually shifting government facilities toward solar power, the State can significantly reduce electricity expenditures and ensure more efficient use of public funds. Through this initiative, government facilities can also serve as leading examples in the adoption of renewable energy technologies while strengthening the country's efforts toward a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

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


JOEL R. CHUA

Representative, 3rd District, Manila

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ALL
GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDINGS, AND OFFICES IN
THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Solar Government Act”.

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the urgent need to transition toward renewable and clean energy sources in order to ensure energy security, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower electricity costs, and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

Towards this end, the State shall promote the transition to clean energy by mandating the adoption and utilization of solar energy systems in government infrastructure, buildings, and offices.

Section 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all government infrastructure, buildings, and offices in the Philippines, including:

1. Public Schools, hospitals, and libraries;
2. Sports facilities, parks, and museums;
3. Airports, docks, and port areas; and
4. All other properties owned and utilized by the National Government, and Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCC).

Provided, That properties owned by the government that are scheduled for disposition or sale shall be excluded from this Act.

Section 4. *Solar Government Plan.* – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Energy (DOE), in coordination with the Department

of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall formulate and adopt a Solar Government Plan for the phased installation and integration of solar energy systems in government infrastructure, buildings, and offices covered by this Act.

The Solar Government Plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. A comprehensive inventory of government infrastructure, buildings, and offices covered by this Act;
- b. Technical and feasibility assessments to determine the suitability of solar energy systems in such facilities;
- c. A phased implementation schedule prioritizing high-energy-consuming government facilities;
- d. Technical standards and guidelines for the installation, operation, and maintenance of solar energy systems; and
- e. Estimated funding requirements and recommended financing mechanisms for the implementation of this Act.

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOE shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 5. *Mandatory Installation of Solar Energy Systems.* – All government infrastructure, buildings, and offices covered by this Act shall, where technically feasible and practicable, install and operationalize solar energy systems in accordance with the Solar Government Plan established under this Act.

Such solar energy systems shall be capable of supplying at least thirty percent (30%) of the building's average daily electricity consumption.

All newly constructed government infrastructure, buildings, and offices shall be designed and constructed to accommodate and integrate solar energy systems as part of their standard energy infrastructure.

The installation and operation of solar energy systems shall comply with the technical standards and guidelines prescribed by the Department of Energy (DOE) and other relevant government agencies.

Section 6. *Operation and Oversight.* – The Department of Energy (DOE) shall have overall supervision in the installation and operation of the solar energy

system. Upon implementation of this Act, the DOE shall submit an annual report to Congress for assessment and review.

Section 7. *Privately-Owned Properties Used by the Government.* – Privately-owned properties used or occupied by the government through lease, usufruct, or similar arrangements may be covered by this Act, subject to the mutual agreement of the government and the property owner.

The installation of solar energy systems in such properties shall be undertaken only when the remaining term of the lease, usufruct, or similar agreement is sufficient to justify the cost of installation and operation of the system, as may be determined under the Solar Government Plan.

Cost-sharing arrangements between the government and the property owner for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of solar energy systems may be agreed upon by the parties, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 8. *Support for Local Government Units.* – Local government units (LGUs) are encouraged to adopt and install solar energy systems in their respective government infrastructure, buildings, and offices.

Subject to the availability of funds, the Department of Energy (DOE), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), may provide financial assistance or subsidies to LGUs for up to ten percent (10%) of the procurement and installation costs of solar energy systems.

The DOE shall establish guidelines for the availment and distribution of such assistance, with priority given to LGUs with limited financial capacity and those implementing large-scale solar energy adoption in public facilities.

Section 9. *Bidding and Procurement Process* – All bidding and procurement done for the purpose of this Act shall be in accordance with the law and existing rules and regulations. The same shall be made in public with all pertinent documents available.

Section 10. *Appropriations.* – An initial amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the completion and implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 11. *Separability Clause* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.