

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10479



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to face persistently high electricity prices, with Filipino consumers paying among the highest power rates in Southeast Asia. Rising generation costs, volatility in global fuel markets, recurring supply constraints, and increasing electricity demand have underscored the urgency of accelerating the country's transition toward cleaner, indigenous, and more affordable energy sources. At the same time, the country possesses one of the region's greatest solar energy resources, receiving an average of 4.5 to 5.5 kWh per square meter of solar irradiance daily, making solar power a practical and sustainable solution for improving energy security and reducing electricity costs.¹

Recent years have demonstrated the growing viability of solar energy in the Philippines. Utility-scale solar farms continue to expand across the country, while declining costs of photovoltaic systems have made rooftop solar increasingly accessible to households, businesses, schools, and local government units. Government initiatives, including the Green Energy Auction Program, the Green Energy Option Program, and expanded net-metering policies under the Renewable Energy Act, have further encouraged investments in distributed renewable energy.² These developments reflect a growing recognition that solar power is no longer an emerging technology but a mature and cost-effective component of the country's energy mix.

¹ Department of Energy (DOE), Philippine Energy Plan 2023–2050; International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Renewable Capacity Statistics 2025; Global Solar Atlas (World Bank Group & ESMAP), Philippines country resource assessment.

² Republic Act No. 9513 (Renewable Energy Act of 2008); Department of Energy, Green Energy Auction Program; Energy Regulatory Commission, Net-Metering Rules; Department of Energy, Philippine Energy Plan 2023–2050.

Concurrently, a grassroots movement commonly referred to as "guerrilla solar" has emerged, wherein consumers install rooftop solar systems, often with battery storage, primarily to reduce dependence on expensive grid electricity. The rapid proliferation of these installations—driven by high electricity prices and improved affordability of solar equipment—demonstrates the increasing public demand for greater energy independence. While this phenomenon highlights the confidence of consumers in solar technology, it likewise reveals the need for stronger government leadership to ensure that solar energy deployment is undertaken safely, efficiently, and in accordance with national energy policies and technical standards.³

Despite these positive developments, the Philippines still lacks a dedicated institution whose primary mandate is to formulate long-term policies, coordinate research and development, promote technological innovation, establish standards, and accelerate the nationwide adoption of solar energy technologies. Existing responsibilities remain dispersed among various agencies, limiting the country's ability to fully harness its vast solar potential and to respond strategically to the evolving renewable energy landscape.

This measure therefore seeks to establish the Solar Energy Development Authority (SEDA) as the principal government agency tasked with leading the research, development, promotion, regulation, and commercialization of solar energy technologies in the Philippines. The Authority shall serve as the focal institution for advancing innovation, coordinating public and private sector initiatives, promoting investments, enhancing consumer awareness, and supporting the integration of solar energy into the country's long-term energy transition.

The creation of the Solar Energy Development Authority is a timely and necessary response to the country's growing demand for reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity. By strengthening institutional support for solar energy development, the State can reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhance energy security, stimulate green industries and employment, lower electricity costs for Filipino consumers, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's commitments on climate resilience and sustainable development.

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



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³ Department of Energy, Philippine Energy Plan 2023–2050; Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), publications on distributed renewable energy and rooftop solar adoption in the Philippines; Ember, Global Electricity Review 2025 (Philippine power sector trends).

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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 "Solar Energy Development Authority Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the development and utilization of renewable and indigenous energy resources, particularly solar energy, as a vital component of the country's energy security, environmental sustainability, and economic development. The State shall encourage scientific research, technological innovation, and investments in solar energy systems to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, improve access to affordable and reliable electricity, and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

Towards this end, the State shall establish an institutional framework that shall lead, coordinate, and accelerate the research, development, commercialization, and adoption of solar energy technologies; formulate policies and standards for their safe and efficient use; strengthen collaboration among government agencies, the private sector, academe, and local government units; and promote public awareness on the benefits of solar energy as a clean, sustainable, and accessible source of power.

SEC. 3. The Solar Energy Development Authority. 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. 4. Powers and Functions. – 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;
- d. Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Board of Directors. – 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 consent 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. They shall receive compensation as may be fixed by the President of the Philippines, which shall not exceed that given to Commissioners of a Constitutional Body.

No person shall be appointed Chairman or member of the Board unless he is a natural-born Filipino citizen at least thirty (30) years of age, of good moral character, and possessed of recognized competence in the fields of science and technology.

SEC. 6. Duties and Responsibilities of the Board. – The Board of Directors shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Prepare and issue rules and regulations as 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. Make contracts;
- 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 any of them for cause, subject to the Civil Service Commission rules and regulations; and
- g. Exercise such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry on the functions of the Authority.

SEC. 6. The Chairman. – The Chairman shall be the Chief Operating Officer. In case of absence or whenever the Chairman is unable to act, the Board shall designate who among its members shall act as Chairman.

SEC. 6. Congressional Oversight. – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Joint Congressional Energy Commission shall exercise oversight powers over its implementation.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriation for 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. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,