

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11371, August 08, 2019]

AN ACT REDUCING ELECTRICITY RATES BY ALLOCATING A PORTION OF THE NET NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHARE FROM THE MALAMPAYA NATURAL GAS PROJECT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE STRANDED CONTRACT COSTS AND STRANDED DEBTS

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 "Murang Kuryente Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect public interest by ensuring the provision of reliable, secure, and affordable supply of electric power to consumers. Towards this end, the State shall implement policies and programs to ensure transparent and reasonable prices of electricity to consumers by minimizing the universal charges for stranded contract costs and stranded debts.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act.. the following terms shall be defined as stated below:

(a) *Joint Congressional Energy Commission (JCEC)* refers to the congressional commission constituted under Section 62 of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001", as amended by Republic Act No. 11285, otherwise known as the "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act";

(b) *Malampaya fund* refers to the existing and future government share from the net production proceeds of the Malampaya Natural Gas Project pursuant to Presidential Decree No, 87, otherwise known as "The Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972", and Service Contract 38. This government share forms part of a Special Account in, the general fund used to finance energy resource development and exploitation programs pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 910, entitled "Creating an Energy Development Board, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Providing Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes";

(c) *Malampaya Natural Gas Project* refers to Service Contract 38 in offshore Northwest Palawan;

(d) *Net government share* refers to the sixty percent (60%) share of the national government from the net production proceeds of Service Contract 38 pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 87, otherwise known as "The Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972", after the deductions provided by Presidential Decree No. 910, Creating the Energy Development Board;

(e) *Net national government share* refers to the share of the national government from the net government share after the deduction from the net government share of the local government share pursuant to Section 290 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991";

(f) *Net production proceeds* refer to the balance of gross proceeds from Service Contract 38 after deducting the Filipino Participation Incentive, if any, and all operating expenses pursuant to Section 8(1) of Presidential Decree No. 87, otherwise known as "The Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972";

(g) *Stranded contract costs of the National Power Corporation (NPC)* refer to the excess of the contracted cost of electricity under eligible independent power producer contracts over the actual selling price of the contracted energy output of such contracts in the market. Such contract shall have been approved by the Energy Regulatory Board as of December 31, 2000;

(h) *Stranded debts of the NPC* refer to any unpaid financial obligations of the NPC which have not been liquidated by the proceeds from the sales and privatization of NPC assets; and (i) *Universal charge* refers to a non-bypassable charge which shall be passed on and collected from all end users on a monthly basis by the distribution utilities.

SEC. 4. *Use of Malampaya Fund.* - Two hundred eight billion pesos (P208,000,000,000.00) of the proceeds of the net national government share from the Malampaya fund, shall be utilized for the payment of stranded contract costs and stranded debts transferred to and assumed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) pursuant to Section 49 of Republic Act No. 9136, the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001", including all anticipated shortfalls in the course of payment of such liabilities after applying the PSALM's collections from the privatization of the NPC's assets, independent power producers' contracts, and proceeds from operations of existing assets: *Provided*, That annual allocations from the Malampaya fund for the payment of stranded contract costs and stranded debts including all anticipated shortfalls shall be included in the General Appropriations Act consistent with the fiscal program of the government, the procedure for which shall be provided in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act: *Provided, further*, That any remaining and future proceeds of the net national government share from the Malampaya fund over and above the amount indicated in this Act shall remain in the Special Account in the general fund to finance energy resource development and exploitation programs pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 910, Creating the Energy Development Board: *Provided, finally*. That this provision shall not impair in any way the use or application of the remaining amount or future proceeds of the net national government share of the Malampaya fund to be used for energy resource development and exploitation programs pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 910.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall ensure the timely release of the amounts allocated and appropriated to the PSALM in accordance with its debt and independent power producer payment schedule.

In the event the stranded contract costs, stranded debts, and anticipated shortfalls in the course of the payment of such liabilities are fully paid before the exhaustion of the amount allocated in this Act, the remainder of the amount allocated shall be