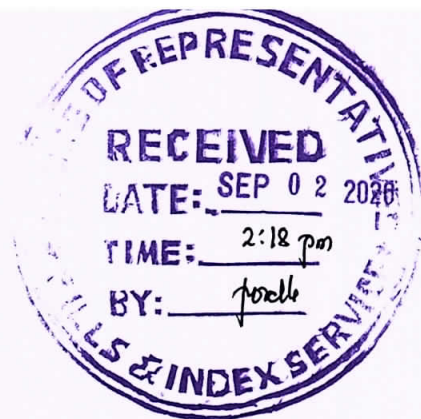


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1178



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE THE OPERABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF THE BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (BNPP) AS AN ENERGY SOURCE OF THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Southeast Asia, the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) was completed in 1984;

WHEREAS, the BNPP was established in line with the policy of the government, then headed by President Ferdinand E. Marcos, to make the country more energy self-sufficient;

WHEREAS, BNPP was expected to generate 621 megawatts (MW)¹ of power, which was more efficient than any fossil fuel;

WHEREAS, hounded by controversies, regime change, and politics, the BNPP never became operational;

WHEREAS, the Philippines currently has three major problems in energy: (1) there is not enough electricity supplied to the country, (2) cost of electricity remains high, and (3) the country relies on dirty energy from overseas²;

WHEREAS, nuclear power is seen to be a good alternative to address the abovementioned problems as it is seen as “*an economic source of electricity generation, combining the advantages of security, reliability, virtually zero greenhouse gas emissions and cost competitiveness*”³;

¹ The ASEAN Post Team. 25 December 2019. Philippines considering nuclear energy. Retrieved on 31 August 2020 from <https://theaseanpost.com/article/philippines-considering-nuclear-energy>

² Ayala, M. 26 March 2018. Should the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant be Refurbished? Retrieved on 31 August 2020 from <http://large.stanford.edu/courses/2018/ph241/ayala1/>

³ World Nuclear Association. January 2017. Nuclear Power Economics and Project Structuring – 2017 Edition. Retrieved on 31 August 2020 from https://www.world-nuclear.org/getmedia/84082691-786c-414f-8178-a26be866d8da/REPORT_Economics_Report_2017.pdf.aspx

WHEREAS, low-cost baseload electricity supply has been a critical enabler of economic and social development and nuclear power has played a key role in delivering such supply for decades in many countries⁴;

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Senate of the Philippines expressed its interest in rehabilitating the BNPP in preparation for its revival⁵;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) urged President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to revive the BNPP, even declaring it safe and a good source of cheaper electricity⁶;

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy, through Secretary Alfonso Cusi, on the other hand, has been advocating the use and inclusion of nuclear power as an energy source of the country;

WHEREAS, President Duterte issued Executive Order No. 116 on July 24, 2020, directing a study for the adoption of a national position on a nuclear energy program, constituting a nuclear energy program inter-agency committee to conduct a study and evaluate the need for and viability of introducing nuclear power as an energy source of the country;

WHEREAS, informed understanding of nuclear power as a means of addressing energy security, equity and self-sufficiency is required for an effective charting of direction to revive or reopen for use the BNPP—the only completed nuclear power plant in Southeast Asia;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to examine and review plans, studies, and data to determine the viability of the revival or reopening of the BNPP;

WHEREAS, there has not been any integrated initiative to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the BNPP in the past to extract more accurate information and insights on the operability and utilization of the BNPP, and the formulation of strategic policy frameworks for the harnessing of nuclear power as one of the energy sources in the country;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Energy to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine the operability and utilization of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant as a source of energy in the country.

Adopted,


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

⁴ World Nuclear Association. January 2017. Nuclear Power Economics and Project Structuring – 2017 Edition. Retrieved on 31 August 2020 from

https://www.world-nuclear.org/getmedia/84082691-786c-414f-8178-a26be866d8da/REPORT_Economics_Report_2017.pdf.aspx

⁵ Pilapil, J. 27 December 2018. Research institute calls for revival of Bataan Nuke Plant. The Manila Times. Retrieved 31 August 2020 from

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2018/12/27/news/top-stories/research-institute-calls-for-revival-of-bataan-nuke-plant/488282/>

⁶ *Ibid.*