

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Resolution No. 892



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**Introduced by Representatives ERIC GO YAP, JOCELYN PUA TULFO, and  
ROWENA NIÑA TADURAN**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SUDDEN AND UNWARRANTED UPSURGE  
IN MERALCO ELECTRICITY RATES AND BILLS**

**WHEREAS**, the State shall regulate or prohibit monopolies when the public interest so requires;

**WHEREAS**, Section 4 (i) of the Republic Act No. 11469, also known as the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act authorized the President to exercise powers to "continue to enforce measure to protect the people from hoarding, profiteering, injurious speculations, manipulation of prices, product deceptions, and cartels, monopolies and other combinations in restraint of trade, or other pernicious practices. Affecting the supply, distribution and movement of food, clothing, hygiene and sanitation products, medicine and medical supplies, fuel, fertilizers, chemicals, building materials, implements, machinery equipment and spare parts required in agriculture, industry and other essential services, and other articles of prime necessity, whether imported or locally produced or manufactured;"

**WHEREAS**, Section 4 (u) of the RA 11469, Congress gave the President powers in order to "conserve and regulate the distribution and use of fuel, energy, and power, and ensure adequate supply of the same;"

**WHEREAS**, with the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in many parts of the country due to the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), meter reading of electricity consumption has been suspended in some areas;

**WHEREAS**, the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) stated that some March and all April bills were estimated based on the past three (3) months' average daily

consumption following the Distribution and Open Access Rules (DSOAR) issued by the Energy Regulation Commission<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, news agencies aired the complaints and allegations of several electric consumers regarding the sudden and unwarranted upsurge in their Meralco rates and bills, immensely greater than the supposed three-month average advised by Meralco;

**WHEREAS**, Meralco also charge its consumers using its online facilities a convenience fee of P47 added on top of the total amount they selected for payment, passing the obligation to the consumers for the operationalization of a secure and reliable payment facility<sup>2</sup>;

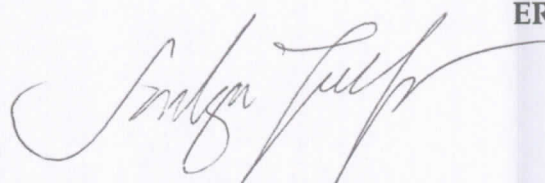
**WHEREAS**, there is a need to validate the accuracy of the billing calculations and to probe on the charging of convenience fee of Meralco to ensure that the Filipino people are not taken advantage of, most especially during a national crisis;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate House Committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, the sudden and unwarranted upsurge in Meralco electricity rates and bills.

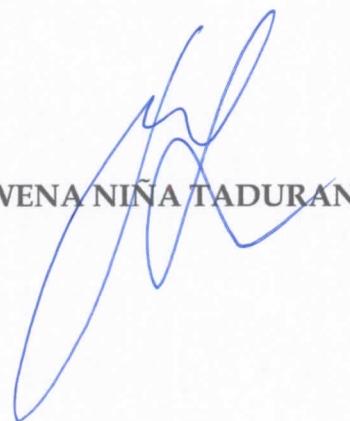
Approved,



**ERIC GO YAP**



**JOCELYN PUA TULFO**



**ROWENA NIÑA TADURAN**

<sup>1</sup> [https://company.meralco.com.ph/news-and-advisories/understanding-your-may-bill?fbclid=IwAR09WU4T\\_tHcgVlq8RfbsJqbCNzC5904crUIPxDdnhWj8EWVSN8jtFTWCXU](https://company.meralco.com.ph/news-and-advisories/understanding-your-may-bill?fbclid=IwAR09WU4T_tHcgVlq8RfbsJqbCNzC5904crUIPxDdnhWj8EWVSN8jtFTWCXU)

<sup>2</sup> <https://online.meralco.com.ph/customers/s/article/Convenience-Fee>