

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

**RESOLUTION NO. 2206**



---

Introduced by **REP. JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.,**  
**REP. GENARO M. ALVAREZ JR., REP. LORENZ R. DEFENSOR,**  
**REP. MICHAEL B. GORRICETA, and REP. JULIENNE L. BARONDA**

---

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY RATES OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES IN NEGROS AND ILOILO**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 (c) of the Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA) states that it is the policy of the State “to ensure transparent and reasonable prices of electricity in a regime of free and fair competition and full public accountability to achieve greater operational and economic efficiency and enhance the competitiveness of Philippine products in the global market;”

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 (f) of the same act mandates the State “to protect the public interest as it is affected by the rates and services of electric utilities and other providers of electric power;”

**WHEREAS**, Section 23 of the same act and Section 4 (h) Rule 7 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the EPIRA provides that a distribution utility (DU) shall supply electricity in the least cost manner to its captive market within its franchise area, subject to collection of retail rates duly approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC);

**WHEREAS**, in a forum by the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (CENECO) on September 9, 2021 with various consumer groups, LGUs, media and MCOs, to answer concerns on power outages and increases in per kilowatt hour power rates, estimated to more than 15 percent from its July to August 2021 billings, among others, electric cooperatives in Western Visayas have attributed the increase in their respective power rates in the last three months to high electricity market prices;

**WHEREAS**, in the same forum, the Electric Cooperatives Association of Region 6 (ECAR) said the major factor that caused the spike of electricity rates for the month of August originated from the damaged submarine cable of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines connecting Cebu to Negros and Panay, causing imbalances in the power requirement intended for Region VI electric cooperatives automatically taken and supplied from WESM (Wholesale Electricity Market), and that these increases in the generation charges were reflected in the electric bills of consumers of Central Negros Electric Cooperative (CENECO), Northern Negros Electric Cooperative (NONECO), Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative (NOCECO) and seven other power distribution utilities in

the region— AKELCO, ANTECO, CAPELCO, GUIMELCO, ILECO I, ILECO II, ILECO III;

**WHEREAS**, the ECAR also reported that electric cooperatives in Region VI are greatly affected by the high electricity market price which resulted in the increase of electricity rates from June to present among electricity consumers of electric cooperatives in the region composed of CENECO, NONECO, NOCECO, and the seven other power distribution utilities in the region (AKELCO, ANTECO, CAPELCO, GUIMELCO, ILECO I, ILECO II, ILECO III);

**WHEREAS**, a consumer group has reported to the Department of Energy (DOE) and filed cases to the National Electrification Administration on alleged overpriced power contract entered by CENECO, which is allegedly passing undue financial burden to CENECO consumers.

**WHEREAS**, the Bacolod Sangguniang Panlungsod have decided to take action and has filed an intervention in the form of a resolution requesting the management and Board of Directors of Central Negros Electric Cooperative, Inc. to explain and clarify immediately the hefty increase per kilowatt hour from its July to August billings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives direct the appropriate House Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increase in electricity rates of electric cooperatives in Negros and Iloilo.

Adopted,

  
REP. JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.

  
REP. GENARO M. ALVAREZ JR.

  
REP. LORENZ R. DEFENSOR

  
REP. MICHAEL B. GORRICETA

  
REP. JULIENNE L. BARONDA