Republic of the Philippines Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Cotabato City

BANGSAMORO TRANSIŢION AUTHORITY

Resolution No: 772

Introduced by authors:

HON. ATTY. UBAIDA C. PACASEM, HON. ATTY. RAISSA H. JAJURIE, HON. ATTY. OMAR YASSER C. SEMA, HON. MARJANIE S. MACASALONG, HON. ZIAUR-RAHMAN ALONTO ADIONG

RESOLUTION

URGING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENERGY BOARD TO IMMEDIATELY CONVENE ITSELF AND ADDRESS THE POSSIBLE ENERGY CRISIS BROUGHT UPON BY THE IMPENDING DISCONNECTION OF LANAO DEL SUR FROM THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NGCP) DUE TO THE INABILITY OF THE LANAO DEL SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (LASURECO) TO RESOLVE ITS DEBT TO THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM)

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article III of Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Organic Law, declares that all inland waters such as lakes, rivers, river systems, and streams within the territorial jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be under the jurisdiction the Bangsamoro Government as provided for in Section 22, Article XIII of RA 11054;

WHEREAS, Section 22, Article XIII of RA 11054 stipulates that in cases where inland waters are the source of energy for areas outside of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, the principles of co-management of fossil fuel under Section 10 of Article XIII and Section 34 of Article XII of RA 11054 shall apply;

WHEREAS, under the principles of co-management as defined in Section 34, Article XII of RA 11054, the revenues generated from the co-managed resources shall be shared equally between the National Government and the Bangsamoro Government, subject to the limitations provided in the Constitution;

WHEREAS, by virtue of Section 7, Article VI of RA 11054, the Intergovernmental Energy Board is created to resolve all matters relative to the utilization of water from Lake Lanao for the Agus Hydropower Complex, as specified in Section 36, Article XII of RA 11054, and other energy issues referred to by the Intergovernmental Relations Body;

WHEREAS, Lake Lanao is the main source of the Agus Power Plant Complex, with two of its cascading power plants operating within the territorial jurisdiction of the province, namely Agus 1 Hydroelectric Plant in Marawi City, and Agus II Hydroelectric Plant in the Municipality of Saguiran;

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2022, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) served a "Notice of Suspension of Service" to the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative (LASURECO) after they failed to resolve their outstanding obligation amounting to Php 12.9 billion to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), and in effect disconnecting the entire province of Lanao del Sur from the main power supply;

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim personally appealed to the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Finance (DOF), and PSALM to reconsider their requested action from NGCP to disconnect LASURECO and the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative (MAGELCO) for their failure to settle their existing debts with PSALM:

WHEREAS, in his appeal, Chief Minister Ebrahim emphasized on the negative impact that the impending disconnection might cause to the region, and identified as part of the long-term solution the possible creation of new distribution entities that will mirror the services offered by LASURECO and MAGELCO, pursuant to Section 36, Article XIII of RA 11054;

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, LASURECO was able to acquire a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against PSALM from the Regional Trial Court of Lanao del Sur, thereby suspending the scheduled disconnection of Lanao del Sur from the power supply;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2022, Governor Mamintal "Bombit" Alonto Adiong, Jr., together with 2nd District Representative Yasser Alonto Balindong, and BTA Deputy Speaker Ziaur-Rahman Alonto Adiong, personally appealed to the officials of PSALM to energize in full the needs of Lanao del Sur, presenting as one of their argument the utilization of the waters of Lake Lanao as the main source of energy;

WHEREAS, during the said meeting, LASURECO and PSALM both agreed to enter into a Contract of Supply of Electricity Energy, as well as a special payment agreement, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of PSALM;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Energy Board, as early as 30 March 2021, has recognized the importance of settling the long-standing financial issues besetting the LASURECO;

WHEREAS, given that the Bangsamoro Government has a share in the revenues generated from the utilization of Lake Lanao as a source of energy, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority deems it an urgent matter for the Intergovernmental Energy Board to convene, and address the issue on the possible disconnection of Lanao del Sur due to the inability of LASURECO to resolve its debt to PSALM;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority to urge the Intergovernmental Energy Board to immediately convene itself and address the possible energy crisis brought upon by the impending disconnection of Lanao del Sur from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) due to the inability of Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative (LASURECO) to resolve its debt to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM).

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish copies of this resolution to the Department of Energy, Department of Finance, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, National Electrification Administration, Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, and the Province of Lanao del Sur.

Adopted,	_	
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AUTHOR:

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