

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 469



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ENERGY TO CONDUCT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AN INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE UNPAID UNIVERSAL CHARGES AMOUNTING TO PHP 238.3 MILLION BY MULTIPLE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES NATIONWIDE

WHEREAS, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has uncovered up to Php 238.3 million (Two Hundred Eighty Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Pesos) in universal charges collected from electricity users by electricity cooperatives but not remitted to the agency, which is the fund's administrator;

WHEREAS, the universal charge refers to the charge imposed for the recovery of the Stranded Debts, Stranded Contract Costs of the National Power Corporation (NPC), and Stranded Contract Costs of Eligible Contracts of Distribution Utilities and other mandated purposes;

WHEREAS, the universal charge is a non-bypassable charge, which shall be passed on and collected from all end-users on a monthly basis by the distribution utilities;

WHEREAS, the universal charges were paid by the consuming public for government-mandated purposes in accordance with existing laws;

WHEREAS, the non-remittance of universal charges is a failure of transparency and accountability in the use of public funds by electric cooperatives who act as collecting agents for the said fees;

WHEREAS, universal charge collections by the distribution utilities, under RA 9136 or Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) shall be remitted to PSALM on or before the 15th day of the succeeding month it collected the universal charge from the end-users;

WHEREAS, the non-remittance of the universal charge collections to PSALM is an act of defrauding the public who already paid for the same in their electricity consumption;

WHEREAS, the paying public should reasonably expect a reliable and consistent electricity supply in their homes with their timely payment of additional charges in their electricity bills;

WHEREAS, the non-remittance of the universal charge collections to PSALM is likewise an act of defrauding the government that is mandated to use the universal charge in accordance with law;

WHEREAS, aside from being liable for interest charges, these non-remitting electric cooperatives and their officers will face civil, administrative and criminal charges;

WHEREAS, the non-remittance of universal charge collections, in betrayal of the paying public and the government, is tantamount to estafa by misappropriation under the Revised Penal Code, and thus punishable by imprisonment of up to 20 years;

WHEREAS, PSALM already sent out to erring cooperatives such as Abra Electric Cooperative, Inc., Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc., Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc., Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc., Masbate Electric Cooperative, Inc., Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc., Ticao Electric Cooperative, Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc., Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc., Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc.-PPALMA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to urge the House Committees on Public Accounts and Energy to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the unpaid universal charges amounting to Php 238.3 Million by multiple electric cooperatives nationwide;

ADOPTED,


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAX" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.