

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

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

House Resolution No. 911



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Introduced by Representatives PAOLO Z. DUTERTE and ERIC GO YAP

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### RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE(S) TO IMMEDIATELY INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN MERALCO ELECTRICITY RATES AND BILLS, WITH THE END IN VIEW THAT CORRECTIVE MEASURES BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THAT CONSUMERS ARE CHARGED BASED ON THEIR ACTUAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

WHEREAS, the government placed many parts of the country under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to contain the spread of the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, physical meter reading of electricity consumption has been suspended in areas under community quarantine, thus, the rates and bills received by the consumers residing in those areas are generated through estimation;

WHEREAS, the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) explained the basis of some March and all April bills is the average of the past three (3) months daily consumption following the Distribution and Open Access Rules (DSOAR) issued by the Energy Regulation Commission (ERC)<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, several electric consumers expressed their disbelief and grievance over the sudden increase in their Meralco rates and bills, which is beyond the supposed three-month average announced by the electric company;

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2020<sup>2</sup>, ERC issued new guidelines directing utility distributors to issue new electric bills based on actual meter reading;

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<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://erc.gov.ph/ContentPage/61976>

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020<sup>3</sup>, Meralco announced that they would issue another bill in June based on actual reading and advised its consumers that they do not have to pay the estimated billing for the months covered by the community quarantine;

WHEREAS, the electricity billing to be issued in June covering March 1 – May 31 will be paid on an installment basis starting June 15, 2020, according to Meralco;

WHEREAS, consumers who have paid according to the estimated billing provided by Meralco are also guaranteed that they will be getting a rebate or a refund of their extra payments<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, although Meralco has committed to issue the billing on the basis of actual reading, consumers must watch out and validate the accuracy of the new billing to reflect their actual electricity consumption;

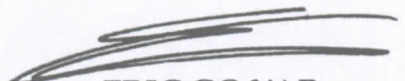
WHEREAS, the implementation of the measures instituted by ERC and Meralco must be followed through, to ensure that Filipino consumers are protected against capitalization and deception;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate House Committee(s) to investigate, in aid of legislation, the sudden increase in Meralco electricity rates and bills, with the end in view that corrective measures be implemented to ensure that consumers are charged based on their actual electricity consumption.

Approved,



PAOLO Z. DUTERTE  
*First District, Davao City*



ERIC GO YAP  
*ACT-CIS Partylist*

<sup>3</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1280559/meralco-to-issue-new-bill-based-on-actual-meter-reading>

<sup>4</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1277930/erc-meralco-customers-with-paid-excess-bills-to-get-rebate-or-refund>