

[BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 73, June 11, 1980]

AN ACT TO FURTHER PROMOTE ENERGY CONSERVATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Batasang Pambansa in session assembled:

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* In the face of the uncertainties of continuing world oil supplies, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to institutionalize energy conservation in order to enhance the availability of energy supplies required to support the country's economic, social and developmental goals.

SEC. 2. In order to carry out the policy declared in this Act, the heads of ministries, bureaus, and agencies of the Government, including those of political subdivisions and government-owned or controlled corporations, shall adopt and strictly enforce measures, particularly those that will facilitate and expedite official action on transactions involving the public, to promote the conservation of energy. They shall enjoin observance of such measures by their officers and employees through administrative sanctions.

SEC. 3. Towards the same end and to develop a more dynamic and effective program for the rational use of energy, the following acts are hereby prohibited:

- a. The importation, manufacture or assembling of gasoline-powered passenger motor cars with engine displacement of over 2,800 cubic centimeters or Kerbweight exceeding 1,500 kilograms, including accessories.
- b. The use of neon lights and electric lights for commercial advertising earlier than 6:00 o'clock P.M. and beyond 9:00 o'clock P.M.; and, except during the Christmas season and during the Ramadan, the deliberate use of unnecessary and excessive lighting in hotels, motels, shopping complexes, buildings, structures and similar commercial establishments as shall be determined by the Ministry of Energy in accordance with accepted electrical; standards and practices.
- c. The use of government vehicles for purposes other than official business: *Provided*, That in every case, the trip ticket authorizing the use of the vehicle shall be displayed on the windshield or in another conspicuous place on the vehicle: *Provided, further*, That vehicles used by intelligence and investigative agencies of the Government .shall not be covered by the foregoing proviso.

The use of government vehicles on Sundays, legal holidays, or outside regular office hours or outside the route of the officials or employees authorized to use them, or by any person other than such official or employee, shall, , unless properly authorized, be *prima facie* evidence of the violation of this paragraph. For the purpose of this paragraph, vehicles owned by government-owned or controlled corporations are deemed government vehicles.

SEC. 4. Also towards the same end and to develop a more dynamic and effective program for the rational use of energy, the Ministry of Energy, after public hearings, is hereby empowered:

- a. To establish and administer a fuel allocation, and rationing program; during periods of tight supply,, and to assure that dealers of fuel deliver the. right quality arid quantity of the product to their customers.
- b. To require, at reasonable profit levels,, the distribution and. safe of alcohol/gasoline or other energy blends in order to increase the use of domestic energy resources.
- c. To set standards of energy consumption for oil-powered or electric-driven machinery, equipment, appliances, devices, and vehicles imported into, manufactured, assembled or sold in the Philippines for domestic use, in consultation with the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Trade, taking into account the technical and economic limitations involved.
- d. To require industrial, commercial and transport entities or establishments to collect or cause the collection of waste oil for recycling as fuel or lubricating oil.
- e. To fix the oil refineries' production yields and product quality, especially during periods of oil shortage, taking into account the technical limitations involved.
- f. To require industrial, commercial and transport establishments consuming more than one million fuel oil equivalent liters of energy including liquid fuels and electricity annually to submit fuel and electric consumption as well as production and sale statistics, in order to properly monitor energy consumption and utilization efficiency.
- g. To set, in consultation with the Ministry of Industry, energy use standards for industrial, commercial and transport establishments, taking into account the technical and economic limitations involved: *Provided, however,* That in the case of sugar mills and refineries, the Philippine Sugar Commission shall be consulted.
- h. To require industrial, commercial and transport establishments consuming more than two million fuel oil equivalent liters of energy annually to employ qualified engineers to act as energy managers, and to submit energy conservation programs and energy audits.
- i. To regulate, in consultation with the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Industry, the use of air-conditioners in offices and in commercial and industrial establishments, including but not limited to requiring the use of thermostats and setting them to certain temperatures that will conserve energy but still assure reasonable convenience to the users thereof. A permit issued by the Ministry shall be required for all new or additional air-conditioning equipment to be installed after January 1, 1981, in commercial and industrial establishments so as to ensure that capacity is not in excess of that which is reasonably required to cool the premises.

SEC. 5. The Ministry of Labor and Employment, in consultation with the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Trade, is hereby empowered to stagger the working hours in industrial and commercial establishments and in offices, or fix the number of working days per week in such establishments or offices, for the purpose of conserving energy and relieving traffic congestion: *Provided, however,* That no diminution in the pay of the employees or workers affected shall result thereby: *Provided, further,* That in fixing working hours and working days in the Metro Manila Area, the Metro Manila Commission shall be consulted.

SEC. 6. The Ministry of Education and Culture is hereby empowered to fix the schedule of school hours in urban centers for the purpose of conserving energy and relieving traffic congestion, without, however, sacrificing educational standards; and