

Mayor Celso Lobregat has asked Mapalad Power Corporation to exhaust all means possible to prioritize and fast track delivery of the 18 megawatt capacities committed to Zamboanga City instead of the staggered drawdown, in an effort to reduce power shortage in the city.

Lobregat issued the urgent appeal a day after he requested Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Chairperson Zenaida Ducut to allow the Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative (Zamcelco) to draw and purchase power from Mapalad prior to the grant of the provisional authority.

In his letter addressed to Joseph Nocos, Vice president and Business Development Manager of San Ramon Power Inc., a subsidiary of Mapalad Power Corporation.

Lobregat said Zamboanga City “cannot wait until September for the full drawdown of the 18-MW power supply as originally scheduled”, given the present outage which lasts 8-9 hours daily.

Zamcelco and Mapalad Corporation have signed up a Power Supply Agreement (PSA) and the drawdown of 18MW was set at 5-MW and 2-MW after the signing of the provisional authority by the ERC. Consequently, the drawdown will be increased on a staggered basis to complete the 18MW on September 2013.

Mapalad, according to Lobregat is currently ongoing rehabilitation and is “expected to feed Mindanao grid with additional power to avert the power crisis in the island” and that it is “working for other solutions such as the modular generator sets as immediate solution to cover the short fall in power supply”.

These solutions among others were presented and discussed during the power forum held in the city last March 15.

Lobregat emphasized that due to the considerable delay in the signing of the PSA of San Ramon Power Inc., the 25MW from the Mapalad Power Corporation, which was originally allocated to Zamcelco was reduced to 18-MW. Zamcelco, was among the last to sign the PSA.

“Considering the location of the Western Mindanao Power Corporation is in Sangali and considering that the San Ramon Coal Power Plant will be located in San Ramon, Zamboanga City, I am writing to urge you to exhaust all means possible in order for you to prioritize and fast track the delivery of the 18-MW capacities committed to Zamboanga City as soon as possible. We cannot wait until September for the full drawdown of the 18MW as originally scheduled. As you also know, Zamboanga City is experiencing outage lasting up to 9 hours a day,”Lobregat said in his letter.

Attached in Lobregat’s letter to Nocos were the April 23, 2013 letter of Zamcelco to the ERC, the April 24, 2013 letter of Zamcelco to the mayor requesting for intervention and the mayor’s April 24 letter to ERC chairperson Ducut requesting to allow Zamcelco to draw and purchase power from Mapalad prior to the grant of the provisional authority.

The 18MW power from Mapalad is expected to augment the present supply from the PSALM and help address the power shortage in the city which is caused by the Mindanao-wide crisis brought about by the reduced water level in Lake Lanao. —Sheila Covarrubias