



## MAP Statement of Support for the ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) and ERC Chair MONALISA C. DIMALANTA

September 13, 2024

The MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP) wishes to express its full trust and support for the ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) and ERC Chair MONALISA C. DIMALANTA, who faces a six-month preventive suspension by the Ombudsman. The MAP is extremely concerned about how this suspension impacts on the energy sector at a time it faces critical and urgent challenges that affect the lives of all Filipinos.

In several occasions in the past when Chair Dimalanta agreed to discuss with us the plans, programs and achievements of the ERC, we were deeply impressed with her professionalism and palpable commitment to improve the country's energy sector. The Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) created the ERC as an independent, quasi-judicial and regulatory body that promotes competition, encourages market development, ensures customer choice, and penalizes abuse of market power. We have been direct witness to how she has steadfastly upheld these principles in faithful pursuit of ERC's mission and the public interest. Among ERC's welcome achievements was the promulgation of ERC Resolution 11 s. 2022, a game-changing reform that encourages renewable energy consumers to become both energy producers and consumers ("*pro-sumers*"). It provided for a much simplified permitting process that streamlined previous tedious selection procedures, thereby facilitating off-grid rural electrification with renewable energy.

We believe that her work to address long-standing issues and shortcomings plaguing the sector, and to streamline the regulatory system in the face of tremendous resource constraints, manifest a strong sense of objectivity and fairness in the pursuit of the common good.

The ERC is a collegial body that makes decisions as a commission. We are concerned that the suspension of the ERC Chair would be highly disruptive and unduly delay the approvals of crucial permits and licenses, the decisions on pending cases, and the implementation of much needed energy sector reforms. These are especially important at this time when the Philippines needs to quickly improve its energy sector to be competitive with its neighbors and attract more investments in much needed infrastructure and job-creating enterprises, while fulfilling its commitment to achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

The country needs a fully functional ERC, led by a competent and dedicated Chair like Chair Dimalanta who has demonstrated not only integrity and dedication, but also innovativeness and courage to make bold and prompt decisions, in order to ensure timely and successful achievement of these goals.



**RENE D. ALMENDRAS**  
MAP President



**RUTH Y. OWEN**  
Chair, MAP Energy Committee

