

# Duterte on nuclear policy: Safety first

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President Duterte will review the draft national policy on nuclear energy submitted by the Department of Energy to determine whether it is safe to include nuclear energy in the country's energy mix.

"Let us listen first before we cock and load our guns there," Duterte told reporters yesterday when asked if he was willing to consider the draft policy.

"Let us see whether it is safe. Number one is safety. If it falls down to it, one to six, and if safety is only about three and four, forget it," he added.

The draft policy, which contains plans for the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), was submitted to the President this month.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the aim of the policy is to "find a final closure" on the nuclear plant.

In the 1960s until the mid '80s, the administration of then president Ferdinand Marcos pushed for a nuclear energy program by constructing the BNPP.

The facility was mothballed when the administration of former president Corazon Aquino took over in 1986.

Some groups have warned the government against reviving the BNPP, saying it is costly and places the people living near the facility and the environment at risk.