



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

'17 MAR 16 P5:42

SENATE

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SENATE BILL NO. 1407

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN
ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY
WITHIN THREE YEARS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Water and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development, critical to the survival of people and the planet. By 2030, the United Nations through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.¹

In the Progress Report of the UN Secretary-General, 6.6 billion people, or 91 per cent of the global population, used an improved drinking water source in 2015, versus 82 per cent in 2000. Despite that improvement, an estimated 663 million people were using unimproved water sources or surface water that year. Moreover, in 2012 it was estimated that at least 1.8 billion people were exposed to drinking water sources contaminated with faecal matter.²

In the Philippines, 85.5 percent of the 22.7 million families have access to safe water supply or water coming from community water system piped into dwelling, yard or plot, public tap, and protected well. The remaining 14.5 percent of families use unsafe source of water from unprotected well, spring, river, pond, lake, rain water, and tanker truck or peddler.³

Those at the bottom 30 percent families use unsafe water source. The administration's Ambisyon Natin 2040, promises a long and healthy life to all

¹ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (Accessed at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6> on 03/15/17)

² *Ibid.*

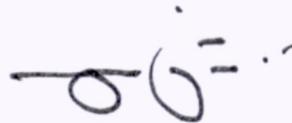
³ 2014 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) (Accessed at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/how-we-fare-mdg-target-families-access-sanitary-toilet-facility-and-access-safe-water-supply> on 03/15/17)

Filipinos. This dream of the government for its people should be coupled with proactive steps taken not just by the executive but more so by the legislative. Aside from providing basic health services, there must be steps taken to provide for safe and potable drinking water supply as one of the many steps to achieve this end.

The measure seeks to establish a potable water supply system in every barangay within three years. The program shall be undertaken by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in cooperation with the Department of Health and Department of Public Works and Highway and shall have an allotment of Fifty Million Pesos (Php50,000,000.00).

It shall also employ a targeted approach in determining the priority areas which greatly needs the assistance by the government. Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply which must be equitably distributed among the provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities having inadequate supply of potable water.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



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TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

- 1 **SECTION 1. Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
- 2 the quality of health of every Filipino through the provision of adequate social
- 3 service including, but not limited to, the provision of an adequate potable
- 4 water supply system to minimize the exposure of water borne diseases.
- 5
- 6 **SEC. 2. Legal Agency.** The Department of Social Welfare and Development in
- 7 cooperation with the Department of Health and Department of Public Works
- 8 and Highways shall undertake a three-year program for the construction of
- 9 potable water supply system in every barangay throughout the country. The
- 10 program shall give priority to areas with social and health problems brought
- 11 about by water-borne diseases taking into consideration population, area
- 12 served, project cost and other economic, social and environmental factors as
- 13 may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of
- 14 the national development plans. The lead agencies concerned, in consultation
- 15 with the provincial and municipal development councils, shall determine the
- 16 areas shall be given priority.
- 17

1 **SEC. 3. Program Guidelines.** The lead agencies concerned shall observe the
2 following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and
3 management of potable water supply project:

4
5 (a) Funds provided for in this act shall be used only for the construction
6 of the new potable water supply system;

7
8 (b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;

9
10 (c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed
11 among the provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those
12 provinces and municipalities having inadequate supply of potable water.

13
14 (d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the project in
15 the project planning, identification, design, management of all project
16 funds, construction and monitoring;

17
18 (e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained
19 by the local government unit concerned;

20
21 (f) The provincial officers of the Department of Social Welfare and
22 Development, Department of Health, and Department of Public Works
23 and Highways, shall be responsible in the preparation of feasibility
24 studies and design of communal water supply project.

25
26 **SEC. 4. Appropriation.** The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (50,000,000.00) is
27 hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this act.
28 Thereafter, the succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation
29 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act until the program
30 shall have been completed.

31
32 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** If any provision of Act is held unconstitutional,
33 other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue
34 to be in force and effect.

1 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders,
2 rule and regulation and inconsistent with the provision of this Act are here
3 amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

4

5 **SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

7

8 *Approved,*

9