

House of Representatives
Republic of the Philippines
18th Congress
First Regular Session



House Resolution No. 4

Introduced by Rep. Danilo Ramon S. Fernandez
1st District, Laguna

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE COUNTRY'S GROUNDWATER AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS EXISTING REGULATORY MECHANISMS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO COPE UP WITH THE PRESENT CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree 1067 or the Water Code of the Philippines, enacted on December 1976, states that "all waters of the Philippines belong to the State" and that "water is vital to national development and it has become increasingly necessary for government to intervene actively in improving the management of water resources";

WHEREAS, groundwater is used for drinking by about 50 percent of the people in the country, and based on the water rights granted by the National Water Resources Board since 2002, 49 percent of groundwater is consumed by the domestic sector, and the remaining shared by agriculture (32 percent), industry (15 percent), and other sectors (4 percent);

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Environment Monitor of 2003, about 60 percent of the groundwater extraction is without water-right permits, resulting in indiscriminate withdrawal, and a high percentage (86 percent) of piped-water supply systems uses groundwater as a source;

WHEREAS, the demand for purified/distilled/bottled water for drinking has steadily grown and has contributed largely in the spread of water refilling stations nationwide;

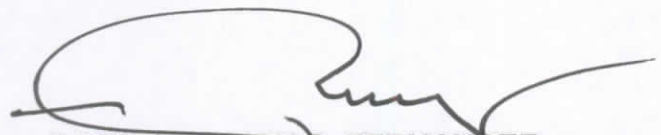
WHEREAS, reports on the unrestricted use of booster pumps of hotels, restaurants, condominium buildings, resorts, recreation parks, shopping malls and similar establishments to extract groundwater has tremendously affected the country's aquifers;

WHEREAS, it has been noted that the occurrence of saline water intrusion, which is caused by over-exploitation or excessive withdrawal of groundwater, is being felt in many areas;

WHEREAS, given the urgency of the situation and to immediately address the same, there is a need to revisit government's policies and programs on groundwater use, including the mandate, manpower and resources of regulatory government agencies in fulfilling their roles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO DIRECT THE PROPER COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE COUNTRY'S GROUNDWATER AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS EXISTING REGULATORY MECHANISMS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO COPE UP WITH THE PRESENT CONDITIONS

Adopted.



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1st District, Laguna