

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6225



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite being acknowledged by the United Nations General Assembly as a basic human right, the right to receive safe, affordable, and accessible clean water still remains a dream in the Philippines. Based on the publication by the World Health Organization in 2019,¹ around 1 in 10 people in the Philippines still do not have access to improved water sources. Likewise, Water.Org, a global non-profit organization, reported that around seven million Filipinos use unimproved, unsafe, and unsustainable water sources, and that more than twenty-four million Filipinos do not have access to improved sanitation.²

These statistics are bothersome not only because the number of Filipinos involved are high, but also because lack of access to clean water is a public health issue. Without access to water, people cannot clean their homes and surrounding as well as maintain their personal hygiene. These in turn would lead to increased chances of acquiring and transmitting diseases.

In response to the foregoing, this bill seeks to establish in every local government unit (LGU) a communal potable water supply system as well as the improvement of existing water supply systems. Each LGU shall actively support and coordinate with the designated lead agencies in the development of these communal potable water supply systems during the three-year program. LGUs shall likewise maintain and ensure that the communal water supply systems remain operational for all the generations to come.

It is hoped that through this legislation, we will see a future where no Filipino would have to endure using and drinking unsafe water. A future where no one is deprived of access to water. A future with better health and wellness for all.

ALFREDO C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party List

¹ World Health Organization, Water shortage in the Philippines threatens sustainable development and health, <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/water-shortage-in-the-philippines-threatens-sustainable-development-and-health>, March 22, 2019.

² Water.Org, Philippines' Water and Sanitation Crisis, <https://water.org/our-impact/philippines/>.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF POTABLE
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN EVERY BARANGAY ALL THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Water for All Act of 2020."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach in promoting the quality of health among all Filipinos, through the adequate provision of essential social services, such as clean and potable water.

Section 3. Lead Agencies. The Department of Public Works and Highways ("DPWH"), in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government ("DILG"), the Department of Health ("DOH"), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development ("DSWD"), shall undertake a three-year program for the development and construction of potable water supply systems in every *barangay* throughout the country.

Section 4. Guidelines. - The lead agencies concerned shall observe the following guidelines in the development of the three-year program:

- (a) Funds provided for in this Act shall be used only for the construction of new potable water supply systems and/or the development of previously-constructed potable water supply systems;

1 (b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply
2 systems;

3
4 (c) The allocation of funds provided for in this Act must be equitably
5 distributed among all local government units, giving priority to those that
6 lack access to clean and potable water;

7
8 (d) In all phases leading to the development, construction, and monitoring of
9 potable water systems, the lead agencies shall consider the best practices
10 in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene ("WASH");

11
12 (e) The lead agencies, in coordination with the local government units
13 concerned, shall consult concerned sectors and stakeholders in the
14 development of the three-year program and the implementation thereof;
15 and

16
17 (f) Other factors, such as economic, social, and environmental factors, shall
18 be accounted for in the development of the three-year program.

19
20 Section 5. The Role of Local Government Units - Local government units
21 shall participate in all phases leading to the development, construction, and
22 monitoring of potable water supply systems in their respective jurisdictions. The
23 local government units concerned shall thereafter manage and maintain the
24 water supply systems constructed in accordance with this Act.

25
26 Section 6. Appropriation. - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00)
27 is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provisions of this Act.
28 Thereafter, the succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation shall
29 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act until the program shall
30 have been completed.

31
32 Section 7. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held
33 unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall
34 continue to be in force and effect.

35
36 Section 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, issuances,
37 orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
38 hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

39
40 Section 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
41 after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper or general
42 circulation.

43
44 Approved,