



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



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 569

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE DAVID C. SUAREZ**

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CONDUCT OF LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PROVISION OF WATER SERVICES BY THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM AND ITS CONCESSION AGREEMENTS WITH MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC. AND MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND IN THE NAME OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, water being a primary resource necessary to sustain life, the State recognizes that the provision of clean water and appropriate sewerage services are essential social services which must be provided to and made accessible to every Filipino.

WHEREAS, to institutionalize the proper operation and maintenance of waterworks system in order to ensure an uninterrupted and adequate supply and distribution of potable water for domestic and other purposes and the operation and maintenance of sewerage systems, the Congress enacted Republic Act No. 6234, thereby creating the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System ("MWSS").

WHEREAS, the Congress in 1995 likewise passed Republic Act No. 8041, otherwise known as the National Water Crisis Act, with the purpose of adopting urgent and effective measures to address the nationwide water crisis which adversely affect the health and well-being of Filipinos. With this purpose in mind, the Congress empowered the MWSS to enter into arrangements with private entities for the provision of water services to the public. Accordingly, in 1997, Concession Agreements were executed by the MWSS with Manila Water Company, Inc. ("Manila Water") and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. ("Maynilad") which were originally set to expire in 2022.

WHEREAS, despite the existing statutes, established institutions and executed Concession Agreements with Manila Water and Maynilad, all aimed at providing effective and efficient water services to the public, particularly in Metro Manila, it is still a common

reality for the common Filipino to experience water supply rotational cut-offs due to insufficient water supply and water coverage albeit high charges for a water connection. Additionally, sewerage and sanitation systems in Metro Manila remain unsatisfactory and inadequate. No less than the Honorable Supreme Court, in the case of **Metropolitan Water District vs. Public Utility Commission**,¹ found both Maynilad and Manila Water guilty of violating Republic Act No. 9725, otherwise known as the Philippine Water Act of 2004, for failure to fully provide wastewater treatment facilities in Metro Manila.

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the inability and failure of Maynilad and Manila Water to perform their service obligations, MWSS extended the effectivity of the Concession Agreements for an additional fifteen (15) years or until 2037.

WHEREAS, the Concession Agreements has been marred with allegations of irregularities which are ultimately detrimental to the public interest.

WHEREAS, while the indispensable role of the private sector in nation building is recognized, it is emphasized that our sworn duty to protect and promote the people's right to health and to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature remains.

WHEREAS, for the protection of public interest and in the name of good governance, the Congress is behooved to call for an inquiry in aid of legislation on these Concession Agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved that the appropriate Committee of the House of Representatives conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation regarding the present state of water and sewerage services as provided by the MWSS, through Maynilad and Manila Water, and the extension of the effectivity of the Concession Agreements.

Adopted,



DAVID "Jay Jay" C. SUAREZ

¹ G.R. Nos. 202897, 206823, and 207969, 06 August 2019.