

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**5461**  
HOUSE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by the Honorable Deogracias Victor 'DV' B. Savellano

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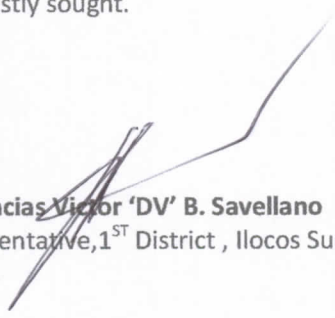
#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rainwater is one of the oldest sources of water for plants, animals and man. Rainwater harvesting can be traced back to the days of Ancient Rome. With a rapidly growing population whose requirement for water is growing just as fast, there is a need to rationalize the exploitation of this valuable resource. There are mature technologies that were not available in the past which when harnessed now could help in the protection, conservation and judicious use of water.

Rainwater is one water resource that has been least considered as a major solution to our problems on potable water. It was ignored in the past largely due to the absence of information and priorities of past administrations. The huge volume of rainwater that falls on the earth's surface annually are largely wasted ending up as run-offs in canals and rivers aggravating downstream flooding and claiming countless of lives, destroying properties and ruining livelihood in the process.

However, with billions of pesos in damages caused by torrential rains and flash floods, it is important to ensure the safe use of rainwater harvesting through proper technology and such a system should be instituted in the whole country, all over the Philippines. This would definitely supplement the water supply and will serve as a contingency during water shortages or interruptions.

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

  
Deogracias Victor 'DV' B. Savellano  
Representative, 1<sup>ST</sup> District, Ilocos Sur

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**AN ACT**

**INSTITUTIONALIZING A RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM FOR THE WHOLE PHILIPPINES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy*** - The State recognizes the importance of preserving its natural resources such as rainwater. The State shall therefore maximize its use by providing a mechanism that will promote, regulate and sustain its utilization to supplement the dwindling water supply and control flooding. Pursuant thereto, the State and its instrumentalities shall adapt and implement programs that will promote the sustainability and maximization of rainwater.

**SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms*** - As used in this Act:

- a) Rainwater – refers to liquid water in the form of droplets that have condensed from atmospheric water vapor and then precipitated to become heavy enough to fall under gravity.
- b) Rainwater catchment – refers to an area or water shortage tanks where rainwater is collected.
- c) Rainwater harvesting – refers to the accumulation and deposition of rainwater for reuse on-site during water restrictions and shortages or to supplement the main supply.
- d) Rainwater harvesting system (RHS) – refers to the process of collecting rainwater which can be used for potable consumption if filtered and disinfected, and non-potable consumption if used untreated, through a technology that uses materials and water shortage tanks that are not susceptible to contaminants and that will not leach toxins into the water under either normal or acid rain conditions. RHS provides a simple and cost-effective means to preserve water, reduce flooding, provide water buffer and recharge aquifers.

**SECTION 3. *Utilization of Rainwater Harvesting.*** – A rainwater harvesting system (RHS) shall be constructed in all government and public establishments all over the Philippines, for rainwater collection to ensure continuous water supply even during times of drought or water shortages.

Rainwater catchment or storage tanks shall be installed and constructed in all government and public establishments all over the Philippines through a technology that uses materials that will not leach toxins into the water under either normal or acid rain conditions and water storage tanks that are not susceptible to contaminants.

The local government unit shall also utilize the facilities that have been provided and constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways pursuant to its mandate under RA 6716, entitled, An Act Providing for the Construction of Water Wells, Rainwater Collectors, Development of Springs and Rehabilitation of Existing Water Wells in all Barangays in the Philippines, and its recommended prototype designs for rainwater catchments.

**SECTION 4. *Rainwater Treatment*** – To ensure the quality of rainwater for drinking purposes, a rainwater treatment device shall be installed in each barangay for filtration and purification processes.

The DPWH, through its attached agencies, shall provide a rainwater treatment facility in each barangay.

**SECTION 5. *Operation and Maintenance.*** – Notwithstanding the provisions of Sec.3 of RA 6716, the operation and maintenance of the RHS shall be vested upon the barangay government, headed by its Chairperson, to regulate the proper distribution and utilization of water and to ensure the regular cleaning and inspection of the gutters and down-pipes and removal of dirt, leaves, and other accumulated materials. It shall implement additional care mechanisms to avoid damage to equipment and facilities, and possible contamination by people and animals to the water reservoir. It shall integrate the concept of climate change in the various phases of policy formulation.

**SECTION 6. *Monitoring and Evaluation.*** - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall conduct regular monitoring and evaluation on the RHS to determine the safety of water for domestic use.

**SECTION 7. *Appropriations*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments and agencies. For the concerned local government units, the amount shall be taken from the internal revenue allotment.

**SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations***– Within sixty (60) days of the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, in consultation with the local chief executive and representative of the barangay council, shall formulate the guidelines to fully implement the provisions of this Act .

**SECTION 9. *Separability Clause*** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 11. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

***Approved,***