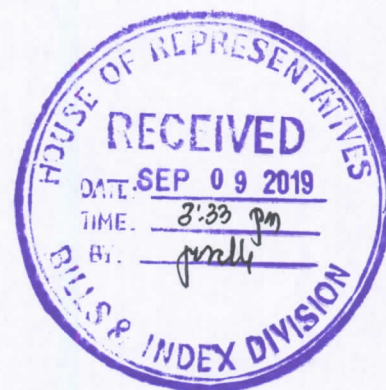


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4447**



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Introduced by Representative **FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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**AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Sec. 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. On July 28, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) as a human right. The HRWS obliges governments to ensure that people can enjoy clean, available, acceptable, accessible, and affordable water and sanitation. In South Africa, the right to water is explicitly recognized in their constitution. In India, their highest court has ruled that the right to water and sanitation is an enforceable right protected by the constitution itself, even if unwritten.

More than 10 million people in the Philippines still get their water from unsafe sources. As to sanitation, more than 6 million people still lack access to proper sanitation facilities.

In March 2019, Metro Manila suffered a water crisis. In the East Zone of Metro Manila, more than 52,000 households did not have water at some point. While the dry season was partly to blame for the water crisis, officials recognized that the main problem was in relation to supply and demand. Part of the reason why the demand for water is not being met is the delay of water infrastructure projects.

In order to address the myriad water problems that the country is facing both in the short-term and long-term, a strong apex body is needed for water resources management, and the formulation of strategies to foster coordinated nationwide efforts in solving water and sanitation problems.

The proposed Department of Water Resources seeks to address this need by centralizing the planning, programming, policy formation, and management of water resources. It will also conduct the necessary research focused on the water and sanitation sectors, and supervise and evaluate the performance of the different water and sanitation organs. It will also deal with related problems such as pollution and flood control.

Considering the rationale stated above, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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**AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **Chapter I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

2 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "*Department of Water*  
3 *Resources Act.*"

4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of National Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of  
5 the State to ensure the provision of safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water  
6 supply and improved sanitation services, while maintaining the protection,  
7 preservation and revival of the quality of the country's water resources and  
8 ecological balance.

9 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** For purposes of this Act, the following terms  
10 are hereby defined:

- 11 a) *Department* refers to the Department of Water Resources.
- 12 b) *Flood Control* refers to methods, acts and protocols to be observed in  
13 order to prevent and reduce the detrimental and catastrophic effects of  
14 flood waters which include sediment-laden or turbid flows, hyper-  
15 concentrated flows or debris flows.
- 16 c) *Flood Risk Management* (FRM) refers to such acts of defining and  
17 determining the appropriate methods, acts and protocols aimed at  
18 preventing and reducing risk of incurring loss of both life and property due  
19 to flood waters. Flood risk management consists of a cycle of prevention,  
20 mitigation, adaptation, preparedness and early warning, and, finally  
21 response and recovery. The elements of FRM include: integrating land-use  
22 planning, coastal zone management into water management; adopting a

1 holistic approach so that FRM is part of wider risk or multi-hazard  
2 management (earthquake, landslides, storm surge, etc); managing risk  
3 and uncertainty as a whole so it is not only hydrological uncertainties but  
4 also social, economic and political uncertainties in view of human behavior  
5 and cultural dimensions of FRM.

6 d) *Gender Equality* refers to the principle asserting the equality of men and  
7 women and their right to enjoy equal conditions realizing their full human  
8 potentials to contribute to and benefit from the results of development,  
9 and with the State recognizing that all human beings are free and equal in  
10 dignity and rights.

11 e) *"Infrastructure and public works"* as used in this Act should be read to  
12 apply only to wholly or primarily water-related projects and shall not be  
13 read to incorporate projects which would not otherwise fall within the  
14 purview of the objectives, power and duties of the Department.

15 f) *IWRM* refers to the Integrated Water Resource Management or to a  
16 systemic, collaborative and multi-stakeholder process, which promotes the  
17 coordinated development and management of water, land and related  
18 resources within geophysical boundaries in order to maximize the resultant  
19 economic and social welfare in an equitable manner and without  
20 compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

21 g) *Levels of water supply service* shall mean as follows:

22 Level I (*point source*) – a protected well or a developed spring with an  
23 outlet but without any distribution system, generally adaptable for rural  
24 and upland areas where the houses are thinly scattered. A Level 1 facility  
25 usually serves an average of 15 households.

26 Level II (*communal faucet system or stand posts*) – a system composed of  
27 a water source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network, and communal  
28 faucets. Usually, one faucet serves 4 to 6 households. Generally suitable  
29 for rural and urban fringe areas where houses are clustered densely to  
30 justify a simple piped system.

31 Level III (*waterworks system or individual house connections*) – a system  
32 with a water source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network and  
33 household taps. This is generally suited for densely populated urban  
34 areas.

35 h) *LGU* refers to Local Government Unit or to the territorial and political  
36 subdivisions of the Philippines as defined under the 1987 Constitution of  
37 the Philippines, which includes provinces, cities, municipalities and  
38 barangays.

39 i) *NDRRMC* refers to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management  
40 Council

- 1 j) *PDP* refers to the country's medium-term development called the  
2 Philippine Development Plan.
- 3 k) *RBO* refers to the multi-stakeholder River Basin Organization or to  
4 organizations which plan, coordinate and monitor activities within a river  
5 basin cluster.
- 6 l) *Sanitation* refers to sewage, sanitation and septage management.
- 7 m) *Sediment management* refers to control of sediment erosion and  
8 deposition in rivers, reservoirs and coastal zones through non-structural  
9 and structural measures and control works.
- 10 n) *SDG* refers to the United Nation's sustainable development goals.
- 11 o) *Septage* refers to sludge produced on individual onsite wastewater  
12 disposal systems, principally septic tanks and cesspools.
- 13 p) *Sewage* refers to water- carried waste in solution or suspension including  
14 sanitary waste (waste products of normal living), commercial waste,  
15 industrial waste, agricultural waste and surface runoff conveyed by a  
16 sewage runoff conveyed by a sewage system for treatment or disposal.  
17 For purpose of this Act, the definition of septage shall be included in the  
18 use of sewage.
- 19 q) *Sewerage* refers to any system or network of sanitary pipelines, ditches,  
20 channels or conduits including pumping stations, lift stations and force  
21 mains, service connections including other constructions, devices or  
22 appliances appurtenant thereof, which includes the collection, sanitary  
23 piping transport, pumping and treatment of water-borne human or animal  
24 waste removed from residences, buildings, institutions and industrial and  
25 commercial establishments to a point of sewage treatment plant disposal.
- 26 r) *Sewers* refer to pipes or such other works or structures which are built  
27 and constructed to treat, carry, transport and dispose sewage.
- 28 s) *Social inclusion* refers to the process of improving the terms for  
29 disadvantaged individuals and groups to take part in society.
- 30 t) *Tariffs* refer to such amounts which may be charged by licensees of water  
31 supply and/or sanitation services for their services based on principles,  
32 standards and guidelines established by the Department.
- 33 u) *Water Demand Management (WDM)* refers to any method – whether  
34 technical, economic, administrative, financial, or social – that will  
35 accomplish one or more of the following things: (1) reduce the quantity or  
36 quality of water required to accomplish a specific task, (2) adjust the  
37 nature of the task or the way it is undertaken so that it can be  
38 accomplished with less water or with lower quality water, (3) reduce the  
39 loss in quantity or quality of water as it flows from source through use to  
40 disposal, (4) shift the timing of use from peak to off-peak periods and (5)

1 increase the ability of the water system to continue to serve society during  
2 times when water is in short supply.

3 v) *Water Resources Regional Offices (WRROs)* – refer to the field office of  
4 the Department which are to be established in accordance with the  
5 identified water resources regions in the country.

6 w) *Water Service Providers (WSPs)* refer to the water districts, any LGU-run  
7 water utility, BWSA, RWSA, cooperatives and private sector who provides  
8 water supply services to any given area.

9 x) *Water supply service* refers to any activity compromising Levels I, II and  
10 III water supply including bulk suppliers, suppliers to subdivisions and  
11 other water service providers.

## 12 **Chapter II: ORGANIZATION**

13 **SECTION 4. *The Department of Water Resources.*** There is hereby created and  
14 established the Department of Water Resources, hereinafter referred to as the  
15 “Department,” which shall be organized within one hundred eighty (180) days after  
16 the effectivity of this Act. The Department shall have the organizational structure,  
17 powers and functions needed to perform its mandate as provided in this Chapter.

18 **SECTION 5. *Mandate of the Department.*** The Department shall be primary  
19 agency responsible for the comprehensive and integrated water resources  
20 development and management for the Philippines. It shall exercise such powers and  
21 functions needed to review, revise, harmonize and integrate policies and regulations  
22 for conservation of water resources and effective management of water supply,  
23 sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, stormwater/urban drainage. The  
24 Department shall be guided by the integrated water resources management (IWRM)  
25 framework, take climate risks into account, and ensure sustainability of the natural  
26 ecosystem functions and services. In managing water resources, the Department  
27 shall aim to improve water conservation and increase system efficiencies, and  
28 optimize the use of all freshwater in the country including groundwater, surface  
29 water, rainwater, run-offs, floods, stormwater and urban drainage, and treated  
30 wastewater to meet various needs.

31 **SECTION 6. *Objectives of the Department.*** Consistent with its mandate, the  
32 Department shall have the following objectives:

33 a) To prioritize and seek the immediate attainment of universal access to  
34 safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water supply and improved  
35 sanitation services for all Filipinos in a manner consistent with the  
36 protection, preservation and revival of the quality of the country’s water  
37 resources, and to adopt all needed measures to advance the right of the  
38 people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and  
39 harmony of nature;

40 b) To strengthen and coordinate integrated water resources management  
41 planning and policy making to ensure sustainable and fair allocation and  
42 efficient use of water resources among competing uses and users,



1 including but not limited to, domestic and municipal use, agriculture  
2 (irrigation, farming & fisheries), power generation, commercial, and  
3 industrial use;

4 c) To ensure that integrated water resources management is strongly  
5 coordinated with land use/cover, coastal zone and multi-hazard planning  
6 and management;

7 d) To ensure and oversee the implementation of the Water Code of the  
8 Philippines;

9 e) To promote State participation in information sharing and education  
10 around best practices in the international movement to achieve universal  
11 access to safe water and improved sanitation and the integration of water,  
12 energy, food security and environment;

13 f) To ensure that gender equality, social inclusion, climate resiliency and  
14 disaster risk reduction are integrated into any water resources  
15 management planning, policy making, and the design and construction of  
16 water infrastructure;

17 g) To strengthen and coordinate policy making and planning for flood  
18 management, integrated with stormwater/urban drainage and appropriate  
19 retention or retarding basins in order to plan against, prevent, and  
20 minimize the detrimental and catastrophic effects of flooding;

21 h) To encourage and enable private sector participation in the continued  
22 growth and development of water sector;

23 i) To promote and adopt water demand management as a national policy to  
24 ensure that water is optimized, that water efficiency and conservation  
25 become a way of life, that the recycling and reuse of water and treated  
26 wastewater are widely practiced, that water is properly priced to  
27 encourage efficient use and conservation and that rainwater, flood waters,  
28 and run-offs are captured/harvested, stored and treated for future use;

29 j) To ensure that the planning and design of water infrastructure considers  
30 the highest efficiency and most appropriate quality, in accordance with  
31 national development objectives; and

32 k) To ensure the effective implementation of all the provisions of RA 9275,  
33 known as the Clean Water Act of the Philippines.

34 **SECTION 7. Powers and Duties of the Department.** – The Department shall  
35 have the following powers and duties:

36 **I. Policy-making and Planning:**

37 a) Ensure that Integrated Water Resources Management is adopted as the  
38 strategic framework for water management policy-making and planning in  
39 the country and coordinate the implementation, promotion, revision and  
40 enhancement of IWRM plans;

- b) Provide policy direction, strategies, and targets in coordination with other relevant entities to meet the goals and objectives for water supply and sanitation, water quality, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, stormwater, and urban drainage. Such policies shall, among other things, integrate the issues of water and sanitation, food security, energy, environment and flood control;
- c) Formulate and develop policies to promote universal access to safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply and improved sanitation services for all Filipinos;
- d) Formulate and promulgate rules and regulations for the development, and optimum utilization of water resources and its administration and management, including coherent water protocols and operation rules of all existing and future water infrastructure; and the imposition on fees or charges as may be deemed necessary by the Department for water resources development;
- e) Develop, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, the National Water Resources Management Master Plan following the IWRM framework and building on the 1998 Master Plan Study on Water Resources Management, the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan and existing plans of other agencies;
- f) Conduct continuing hydrologic surveys and studies of the country's renewable water supply, establish, operate and maintain observation station networks with a view towards formulating long-term policies to balance the sustainability and optimal multiple use of water resources, defining the hydrologic boundaries of basins of the existing water supply sources and developing or updating and implementing countrywide comprehensive basin-wide master plans;
- g) Establish, operate, and maintain a centralized water resources data center necessary for the scientific survey and appraisal of surface and ground water potentials of the country and determine the annual renewable water available per water resources region;
- h) Assist and provide the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) secretariat with required data and input from and for the water sector in the formulation of the country's short-term and long-term strategic development plans, and actions and recommend the adoption of general policies and guidelines for water resources development to the NEDA secretariat;
- i) Review and approve water resources development plans and programs of any agency within the context of the National Water Management Master Plan and overall national plans and programs;
- j) Regularly review regulations prescribed by any government agency pertaining to water use, exploitation, development, conservation or protection of waters, water resources, and watershed or basin areas;



- 1 k) Develop and implement in coordination with other relevant agencies,  
2 effective codes, standards, benchmarks, and reasonable guidelines to  
3 ensure the safety of all public, and private water structures in the country  
4 and assure efficiency and proper quality in the construction of water,  
5 sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control and drainage  
6 infrastructure;
- 7 l) Review existing guidelines appropriate for Private Sector Participation in  
8 the water sector and make needed recommendations to the PPP Center,  
9 NEDA and other concerned agencies to promote and enable more PPPs in  
10 the sector;
- 11 m) Effect inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and inter-departmental coordination on  
12 all aspects of data gathering for water resources development planning  
13 and compel submissions of statistics and data on water management with  
14 the aim of operationalizing the integrated approach to water resources  
15 management;
- 16 n) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may be  
17 necessary to implement and enforce its powers and functions under this  
18 Act;

## 19 **II. Resource Regulation**

- 20 a) Manage, protect, and preserve the country's water resources to ensure  
21 the optimal use thereof for domestic water supply, sanitation, irrigation,  
22 hydropower, navigation, flood control, and recreation, including the  
23 enhancement and maintenance of water equality, conservation of  
24 watershed, control of water pollution and environmental restoration,  
25 without compromising the natural ecosystem functions and services;
- 26 b) Regulate and control the utilization, abstraction, diversion and  
27 development of water resources, taking in consideration its equitable  
28 distribution among competing demands and determine the standards of  
29 beneficial and priority uses of water in times of crisis and national  
30 emergencies;
- 31 c) Determine, adjudicate, and grant water rights amending, for this purpose,  
32 Act No. 2152, and other laws relating to the appropriation and utilization  
33 of surface and groundwater;
- 34 d) Formulate and enforce rules and regulations for the development and  
35 optimum use of water resources and its administration and management,  
36 and implement rules and guidelines for the enforcement of water-related  
37 laws including coherent water protocols, operational rules of all existing  
38 and future water infrastructure and appropriate sanctions to be imposed  
39 for non-compliance;

## 40 **III. Administration and Management**

- a) Develop guidelines including rules of partnership among the Department, field offices of national government agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders, and facilitate the establishment of multi-stakeholder river basin organizations (RBOs) per river basin and strengthen and support existing RBOs and monitor their activities;
- b) Develop materials for capacity building and training on RBO development and conduct training and workshops for prospective river basins;
- c) Authorize its representatives or any deputized agent to enter any property of public dominion or any private land, building or enclave, whether inhabited or not, for the purpose of conducting hydrologic surveys and investigations, including assessing and evaluating the conditions of water laws and standards;
- d) Provide technical assistance to water users including but not limited to farmers, communities, LGUs and other water service providers (WSP) whether directly or in coordination with other agencies on all aspects of integrated water resources management;
- e) Respond to consumer complaint/s, and ensure the adequate promotion of consumer interests;
- f) Deputize agents, whether from the public or private sector, to assist in the performance of any of the powers and functions of the Department;
- g) Appoint, hire and maintain adequate staff and personnel, advisers and/or consultants with suitable qualifications and experience, as necessary;

#### **IV. Coordination**

- a) Coordinate and integrate, on a sound and logical basis, water resources development activities of the country within the context of national plans and policies for social and economic development;
- b) Coordinate with other government agencies, universities and private professional groups for all aspects of data gathering, the conduct of special studies and research on all related aspects of water resources management and development such as climate change, environmental quality, desalination and the development of operating strategies, procedures, and protocols with accompanying computerized decision tools for major water facilities;
- c) Coordinate with the concerned and relevant agencies engaged in flood control, flood risk management and drought risk management;
- d) Proactively coordinate with Local Government Units to ensure the integration of water resources development plans into their comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs), Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) or Provincial Physical Framework and Development Plan (PPFDP).

1           **V.     General or Others**

- 2           a) Exercise such other powers and functions necessary or incidental to the  
3           effective administration and management of the country's water  
4           resources; and,  
5           b) Carry out such other functions as the President may from time to time  
6           assign to the Department consistent with the aims and provisions of this  
7           Act.

8   **SECTION 8. *Secretary of the Department of Water Resources.*** – The  
9   authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and  
10   for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary of the  
11   Department of Water Resources, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, who shall:

- 12           a) Advise the President on the promulgation of executive or administrative  
13           orders, regulations, proclamations and other issuances relative to matters  
14           under the jurisdiction of the Department;  
15           b) Establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department  
16           pursuant to the President's guidelines;  
17           c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out Department  
18           objectives, policies and functions;  
19           d) Exercise supervision and control over all Bureaus and Offices under the  
20           Department;  
21           e) Supervise all attached agencies and corporations in accordance with law;  
22           f) Represent the Department in contracts, awards, and the like;  
23           g) As deemed appropriate by the Secretary, delegate authority for the  
24           performance of any power or function, as defined herein to officials and  
25           employees under his direction; and  
26           h) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be provided by law.

27   No person shall be appointed Secretary unless he possesses extensive knowledge of  
28   public administration and has a minimum of ten (10) years experience in the  
29   administration of water. Sanitation, irrigation, flood control and drainage programs  
30   preferably in a public agency.

31   **SECTION 9. *Office of the Secretary.*** – The Office of the Secretary shall be  
32   composed of the Secretary and his immediate staff.

33   **SECTION 10. *Undersecretaries.*** – The Secretary shall be assisted by not more  
34   than five (5) Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon the  
35   recommendation of the Secretary. The Secretary is hereby authorized to delineate  
36   and assign the respective functional areas of responsibility of the Undersecretaries:  
37   *Provided*, that such responsibility shall be with respect to the mandate and  
38   objectives of the Department; and *Provided further*, that no Undersecretary shall be

1 assigned primarily administrative responsibilities. Within his functional area of  
2 responsibility, an Undersecretary shall have the following functions:

3 a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of  
4 Department policies, plans, programs and projects;

5 b) Supervise all the operational activities of the assigned units for which the  
6 Undersecretary is responsible to the Secretary; and

7 c) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
8 delegated by the Secretary to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the  
9 delivery of public services or as may be required by law.

10 One (1) of the Undersecretaries shall be the Undersecretary for Planning and Policy  
11 who should be a Career Officer and shall have primary responsibility, in coordination  
12 with the Planning and Policy Service, for advancing efforts in the pursuit of the  
13 ultimate goal of universal access to water supply and sanitation systems and  
14 sustainable management of water resources. The Undersecretary for Planning and  
15 Policy shall also have the primary responsibility for knowledge sharing and  
16 advancement of efforts around the integration of water, energy, environment, and  
17 food security.

18 No person shall be appointed Undersecretary unless he possesses a working  
19 knowledge of public administration and has a minimum of seven (7) years of  
20 experience in the administration of water, sanitation, irrigation, flood control, and  
21 stormwater drainage, preferably in a public agency or with legal or financial  
22 knowledge of such programs; provided that only five (5) years of experience shall be  
23 required for the Undersecretary to be assigned for support services.

24 **SECTION 11. Assistant Secretaries.** – The Secretary shall be assisted by six (6)  
25 Assistant Secretaries appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the  
26 recommendation of the Secretary; one to be responsible for Planning and Policy  
27 Service; one for Decision Support System Service; one for Regulatory Service; one  
28 for the Comptrollership and Financial Management Service; one for Legal and  
29 Legislative Service; and one for Administrative and Human Resources Management  
30 Service.

31 No person shall be appointed Assistant Secretary unless he possesses a working  
32 knowledge of public administration and has a minimum of five (5) years experience  
33 in the administration of water, sanitation, irrigation, flood control, and stormwater  
34 drainage or other water resources management programs.

35 **SECTION 12. Organizational Structure.** – The Department shall be composed of  
36 the following organizational units:

37 a) Department proper consisting of the Office of the Secretary, the Offices of  
38 the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, the Internal Audit Office, the  
39 Public Affairs Office, the Pollution Adjudication Board, the Planning and Policy  
40 Service, Decision Support System Service, Administrative and Human  
41 Resources Service, Legal and Legislative Service, Comptrollership and  
42 Financial Management Service, and Resource Regulation Service.

1           b) The Attached Agencies, namely:

2           i. The Local Water Utilities Administration, whose mandate, powers, and  
3           functions are defined in Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended and  
4           which will be transferred from DPWH and attached to the Department. It  
5           shall continue to be primarily a specialized lending institution for the  
6           promotion, development, and financing of local water utilities. In the  
7           implementation of its functions, the Administration shall (a) prescribe  
8           minimum standards and regulations in order to assure acceptable  
9           standards of construction materials and supplies, maintenance, operation,  
10          personnel training, accounting and fiscal practices for local water utilities;  
11          (b) furnish technical assistance and personnel training programs for local  
12          water utilities; (c) monitor and evaluate local water standards; and (d)  
13          effect system integration, joint investment and operation, district  
14          annexation, and de-annexation whenever economically warranted (as  
15          amended by Sec. 22, PD 768).

16          ii. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), whose  
17          mandates, powers, and functions are defined by Republic Act No. 6324, as  
18          amended, and which will be transferred from the DPWH and attached to  
19          the Department. It will continue to facilitate the exercise by the  
20          concessionaires of its agency powers, carry out accounting and notification  
21          functions, monitor, report, and administer loans and perform related  
22          functions in connections with existing projects, manage and dispose its  
23          retained assets and manage and operate the Umiray-Angat Transbasin  
24          Project.

25          iii. The National Irrigation Administration, whose mandate, power, and  
26          functions are stated in Republic Act No. 3601, as amended and Presidential  
27          Decree No. 552, as amended and which will be transferred from the Office  
28          of the President and attached to the Department. It will:

- 29           - plan, design, construct, and/or improve all types of irrigation projects  
30           and appurtenant structures;
- 31           - operate, maintain, and administer all national irrigation systems (NIS);
- 32           - supervise the operation, maintenance, and repair, or otherwise,  
33           administer;
- 34           - temporarily all communal and pump irrigation systems constructed,  
35           improved, and/or repaired wholly or partially with government funds;
- 36           - delegate the partial or full management of NIS to duly organized  
37           cooperatives or associations;
- 38           - construct multiple-purpose water resources projects designed primarily  
39           for irrigation, and secondarily for hydraulic power development and/or  
40           other uses such as flood control, drainage, land reclamation, domestic  
41           water supply, roads and highway construction, and reforestation,  
42           among others, provided, that the plans, designs, and the construction

thereof, shall be undertaken in coordination with the agencies concerned;

- charge and collect from the beneficiaries of the water from all irrigation systems constructed by or under its administration, such fees or administration charges as may be necessary to cover the cost of operation, maintenance, and insurance and recover the costs of construction within a reasonable period of time to the extent of consistent with government policy; and

- recover funds or portions thereof expended for the construction and/or rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems (CIS) which shall accrue to a special fund for irrigation development.

iv. The Laguna Lake Development Authority, whose mandate, powers, and functions are laid out in Republic Act No. 4850, as amended which will be transferred from DENR and attached to the Department. It will continue to serve as lake management and development authority similar to a multi-stakeholder river basin organization and will ensure the implementation of the Laguna Lake Master Plan which will be updated by the Department to ensure alignment with the National Master Plan for Water Management. Its regulatory powers will however be taken over by the Department.

v. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, which was created by Executive Order No. 54, series of 1999, as amended which will be transferred from the Office of the President and attached to the Department. It will update the existing master plan to ensure consistency with the National Water Resources Management Master Plan, regulate easement, integrate and coordinate development programs, abate industrial wastewater and sewerage dumping and enforce environmental laws, relocate formal and informal settlers, undertake civil works such as dredging, clearing of structures, cleaning of the river and its tributaries/esteros, prepare regular Status Report to the President, coordinate with other national and local government agencies/units and formulate its own implementing rules and regulations.

vi. Any other agency exercising water resources management, conservation, and protection functions which the President may order to be transferred to the Department; and

vii. Water Resources Regional Offices, based on the water resources regions of the country, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Secretary.

**SECTION 13. *Offices, functions, and personnel to be completely subsumed by the Department.***

The following offices with their powers, functions, personnel, applicable funds and appropriations, records, equipment, and property are to be subsumed by the Department:



1 a) The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) with all its divisions and  
2 sections, whose mandate, powers, and functions are found in Presidential  
3 Decree No. 424, as amended;

4 b) The River Basin Control Office (RBCO) of the DENR whose mandate,  
5 powers, and functions are found in Executive Order No. 510 and Executive  
6 Order No. 816, as amended;

7 c) The Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) of the DENR which was  
8 created by virtue of DENR Special Order 2011-01 to coordinate the efforts of  
9 the 14 national agencies covered by the Mandamus Order of the Supreme  
10 Court to rehabilitate Manila Bay;

11 d) The flood management planning and sediment management function of  
12 the Flood Control Management Cluster of the DPWH; and

13 e) The Water Quality Management Section of the EMB of the DENR.

14 **SECTION 14. *Functions to be transferred to the Department.***

15 a) The function of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the DENR to  
16 conduct hydrological surveys;

17 b) The monitoring of stream flow and other water data collection function of  
18 the Bureau of Design of the DPWH.

19 **SECTION 15. *Planning and Policy Service.*** – The Planning and Policy Service is  
20 hereby created to provide the Department with the capability to undertake water  
21 infrastructure development planning and programming. For this purpose, it shall  
22 have the following functions:

23 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to water resources planning;

24 b) Assist the Undersecretary for Planning and Policy on all matters related to  
25 the specific functions of the position;

26 c) Formulate strategies and priorities for water resources management and  
27 development consistent with national development objectives and initiate or  
28 undertake relevant surveys for development planning;

29 d) Develop and regularly update a comprehensive and integrated National  
30 Water Resources Management Master Plan and ensure its integration into  
31 existing land use plans;

32 e) Coordinate river-basin planning following the integrated water resources  
33 management framework and the river-basin approach;

34 f) Formulate or update existing River Basin Master Plans which includes  
35 all aspects of water management and development such as water supply  
36 and sanitation, irrigation, flood control and stormwater/urban drainage,  
37 drought risk management, water resource development systems, and other  
38 public water works projects, including phasing of implementation;

- 1 g) Based on the river basin master plan, identify priority packages for water  
2 infrastructure development per river basin including water supply, sanitation,  
3 irrigation, flood control and stormwater/urban drainage, drought risk  
4 management, water resource development systems, and other public works  
5 projects; package project proposals for funding and prioritize project  
6 implementation and the allocation of funds and other resources and  
7 undertake or supervise and evaluate the conduct of feasibility studies and  
8 project preparation thereof;
- 9 h) Evaluate and appraise all regional and inter-regional infrastructure water  
10 development plans and programs as to their feasibility and consistency with  
11 approved strategies and long and medium-term plans;
- 12 i) Initiate regular Department-wide planning exercises and act as the  
13 secretariat thereof;
- 14 j) Gather, analyze, and organize needed statistical data and information;
- 15 k) Provide technical assistance related to its functions to the other Services,  
16 Bureaus, and the Regional Offices as needed;
- 17 l) Conduct of hydrologic and hydraulic surveys and assessments of surface  
18 waters;
- 19 m) Develop general criteria and standards on project investigation,  
20 formulation, planning;
- 21 n) Develop guidelines and standards on social inclusion in water resources  
22 management and ensure policies, programs, and plans are compliant with the  
23 gender and development framework of the government;
- 24 o) Closely coordinate with PAGASA for rainfall and other climate data which  
25 should be considered in the planning for water resources development and  
26 management and for various water infrastructure; and
- 27 p) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
28 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

29 **SECTION 16. *Decision Support System Service.*** – The Decision Support  
30 System Service is hereby created to provide the Department with water resource  
31 management tools and computerized decision support system that incorporates data  
32 management system (acquisition and database) and model base (physical, design,  
33 planning, and decision models). Additionally, the services include services related to  
34 networking, data management, and information and knowledge/learning  
35 management systems for administrative and non-technical support for the  
36 department. The Service is also responsible for providing the Secretary timely  
37 reports on the status of various Department projects and activities. For this purpose,  
38 it shall have the following functions:

- 39 a) Provide the Secretary needed data and processed information to aid in  
40 policy and management decisions under the mandate of the Department;

b) Publish available real-time raw water data (through internet) as well as verified or validated water data (in print and/or electronic form through internet) in tabular and graphical displays as time series and/or spatial data;

c) Conduct standard data analysis such as basic statistical analysis, trend analysis, analysis of runs, cluster analysis, etc. and also publish in print and/or electronic form;

d) Develop and continuously update water resource management, computerized decision support system (DSS) that incorporates data management system (acquisition and database), model base (physical, design, planning and decision models), and user-friendly interface (graphical and visualization tools). This DSS is composed but not limited to: a measurement or data acquisition system; information or database management system; analytical and numerical models for design/planning and decision/evaluation purposes; and finally, a user-friendly interface which includes graphical interface or visualization tools.

e) The specific models to be developed and maintained should include but not limited to the following: long-term climatologic and weather forecasting model; watershed models and river-flood plain models; groundwater models and coupled to surface water models; flood forecasting model for major rivers; optimization-simulation and/or management models for watershed conservation, conjunctive surface and groundwater use, irrigation scheduling, normal and emergency operations of multipurpose reservoirs; and, water quality and ecological models.

f) Develop and manage the management information system and knowledge systems of the Department including the retrieval and processing of monitoring information on all projects and activities of concern to the Secretary and the web portal and conduct systems and process engineering, software development, software configuration management; develop and manage the Department's corporate database, unified database for water industry, data warehouse, other water information resources, library services and document management and archiving services; develop and manage the Department's ICT infrastructure and provide ICT related-services to the Department including computer networking and voice communications services and data exchange; manage the literacy and training services of the Department on various ICTs, KM tools and applications including information and knowledge management.

g) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

**SECTION 17. Administrative and Human Resource Service.** – The Administrative and Human Resource Service is hereby created to provide the Department with services relating to human resources development, personnel, records, facilities maintenances, medical and dental, security and property and procurement services. For such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

- 1 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to internal administration and  
2 human resources management;
- 3 b) Prepare and implement an integrated personnel development plan that  
4 shall include provisions for merit promotions, performance evaluation, job  
5 rotation, suggestions and incentive awards systems, and health and welfare  
6 services;
- 7 c) Provide services related to human resources training, education, and  
8 development including manpower, career planning and forecasting, and  
9 development of indigenous training materials;
- 10 d) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and cost-effective property  
11 procurement system and facilities and coordinate or otherwise interface with  
12 relevant agencies, whether government or private, for the purpose of  
13 developing or upgrading the system;
- 14 e) Secure and maintain necessary Department facilities, and develop,  
15 establish, and maintain an efficient and effective security system covering,  
16 among others, personnel, physical installations, equipment, documents and  
17 materials including the conduct of security investigations;
- 18 f) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies for a more efficient  
19 conduct of administrative processes;
- 20 g) Develop, establish, and maintain an effective records system;
- 21 h) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to the Department Proper,  
22 Bureaus and Regional and District Offices and, when requested, the  
23 government agencies and corporations attached to the Department; and
- 24 i) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
25 delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

26 **SECTION 18. *Legal and Legislative Service.*** – The Legal and Legislative Service  
27 is hereby created to provide the Department with services on such legal affairs as  
28 contract letting and litigation, legal and legislative research, complaints and  
29 investigation, legal counselling and other matters of law. For such purposes, it shall  
30 have the following functions:

- 31 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to legal and legislative affairs;
- 32 b) Prepare Department contracts and legal instruments, review, and interpret  
33 all contracts and agreements entered into by the Department and evaluate all  
34 legal proposals;
- 35 c) Conduct administrative investigation as well as the review of administrative  
36 charges against officers and employees of the Department;
- 37 d) Exercise functional jurisdiction over the legal staffs of Regional Offices;
- 38 e) Provide legal assistance to the Department Proper, the Bureaus and  
39 Regional Offices and when requested, the attached corporations;

- 1 f) Develop and prepare the Department's Legislative Agenda, recommend  
2 presidential certification of the urgency of priority water bills, and other  
3 water-related legislation;
- 4 g) Coordinate and maintain linkages among the various offices, bureaus,  
5 regional offices and attached agencies to the DWR along with other  
6 government agencies on policy matters affecting the Department's mandate  
7 in relation to legislation;
- 8 h) Maintain effective liaison with the Congress and the Senate regarding  
9 legislative inquiries and enactment of water bills or other laws that will affect  
10 water into law;
- 11 i) Monitor the progress of the Department's priority/certified bills to ensure  
12 their passage; and
- 13 j) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
14 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

15 **SECTION 19. *Comptrollership and Financial Management Service.*** – The  
16 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service is hereby created to provide the  
17 Department with coordinated services relating to financial systems and procedures,  
18 budget, cash, accounting, and all financial housekeeping matters. For such  
19 purposes, it shall have the following functions:

- 20 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to the accounting of  
21 government expenditures and receipts, budgeting and cash  
22 management, project finances, and financial systems and procedures;
- 23 b) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget authorizations,  
24 undertake budget execution, and prepare and submit all appropriate  
25 reports to the proper offices;
- 26 c) Develop and maintain accounting, financial and assets management  
27 systems, procedures and practices in the Department Proper, Bureaus, and  
28 Regional Offices;
- 29 d) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure,  
30 assets management practices, accounting, and other records, reports, ad  
31 performance standards such as budgets and standard costs of the  
32 Department, bureaus, and regional offices;
- 33 e) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the  
34 Department and, when requested, to government corporations and  
35 councils attached to the Department; and
- 36  
37 f) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
38 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

39  
40 **SECTION 20. *Resource Regulation Service.*** - The Resource Regulatory Service  
41 is hereby created to provide the Department with services on resource regulation of

1 all water-related services and activities. For such purposes, it shall have the  
2 following functions:

- 3 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to resource regulations;
- 4 b) Determine, grant and regulate water rights for the appropriate, optimal and  
5 sustainable use of surface and ground water;
- 6 c) Determine, evaluate and grant waterworks and sewerage franchises;
- 7 d) Investigate violations of the water rights and the Water Code and impose  
8 the appropriate sanctions in accordance with existing laws, rules and  
9 regulations as well as future rules and regulations which the Department  
10 will promulgate;
- 11 e) Adjudicate water use conflicts; and,
- 12 f) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
13 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by the law.

14  
15 **SECTION 21. *Internal Audit Office.*** – The Internal Audit Office is hereby created  
16 for the purpose of conducting comprehensive audit of various Department activities  
17 and will report directly to the Secretary. Specifically, it shall have the following  
18 functions:

- 19 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to management control and  
20 operations audit;
- 21 b) Conduct management and operations performance audit of Department  
22 activities and units and determine as to the degree of compliance with  
23 established objectives, policies, standards, methods and procedures,  
24 government regulations and contractual obligations of the Department;
- 25 c) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure,  
26 assets management practices, accounting and other records, and  
27 performance standards (such as budgets and standard costs) of the  
28 Department Proper, Bureaus and Regional Offices;
- 29 d) Analyze and evaluate management deficiencies and assist top management  
30 to solve problems by recommending realistic courses of action; and
- 31 e) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
32 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required law.

33 **SECTION 22. *Public Affairs Office.*** – The Public Affairs Office is hereby created  
34 for the purpose of enhancing government relations with all stakeholders including  
35 the media. It shall ensure that women, men, older people and people with  
36 disabilities will be consulted, organized and can take active part in all aspects of  
37 water resources development and management activities. The office will also lead  
38 the planning and organizing of the special events of the Department. For such  
39 purposes, it shall have the following functions:

40 A. Public Awareness

- 41 a) Advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to public affairs services;



- b) Develop and supervise the implementation of communication programs to have relevant policies, programs and plans of the Department understood by the public;
  - c) Produce and supervise the dissemination of communication materials in line with the priorities of the Department and the national government public information programs;
  - d) Conduct public opinion and attitude surveys to identify the interests and concerns of key groups served by the Department;
  - e) Establish editorial policies on print and broadcast media;
  - f) Establish and maintain linkages with the tri-media and presence in social media;
  - g) Coordinate the conduct of interviews and news conferences;
  - h) Act as spokesperson for the Department;
  - i) Coordinate with various Department units, concerned government agencies, tri-media and other stakeholders on matters related to the above-enumerated functions;
  - j) Coordinate with appropriate national government agencies tasked with public information affairs;
- B. Promoting Participation
- a) Conduct public consultations and discussions;
  - b) Develop and disseminate relevant and appropriate materials and programs for public information and education, as well as advocacy campaign;
  - c) Conduct seminars and workshops involving the LGUs and the general public on current water issues and problems;
  - d) Conduct capability building seminars of various stakeholders to promote meaningful participation in the Department's policy making, planning, development and implementation of various programs and projects.
- C. Special Events
- a) Coordinate the organization and promotion of special events and water exhibits;
  - b) Act as the focal point for all water related events.
  - c) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

**SECTION 23. *Pollution Adjudication Board.*** – There is hereby created as Pollution Adjudication Board under the Office of the Secretary. The Board shall be composed of the Secretary as Chairman, two (2) Undersecretaries as may be designated by the Secretary, the Director of Water Quality Management Bureau and three (3) other representatives from other stakeholders to be designated by the Secretary as members. The Board shall assume the powers and functions of the Commission/Commissioners of the National Pollution Control Commission with respect to the adjudication of water pollution cases under Republic Act No. 3931, Presidential Decree 984, particularly with respect to Section 6 letters e, f, g, j, k and p of the P.D. 984 and RA 9275. The Bureau of Water Quality Management shall serve as the Secretariat of the Board. These powers and functions may be delegated

1 to the field officers of the Department in accordance with rules and regulations to be  
2 promulgated by the Board.

3 **SECTION 24. *Bureaus.*** – Each Bureau shall be headed by a Bureau Director who  
4 shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the functions of the  
5 Bureau concerned. The Bureau Director shall be assisted by one (1) Assistant  
6 Director.

7 **SECTION 25. *Bureau of Flood Control and Drainage.*** – The Bureau of Flood  
8 Control and Drainage is hereby created to plan and design flood control and  
9 drainage structures and facilities in accordance with technical standards, guidelines  
10 and manuals. For this purpose, it shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 11 a) Formulate policy, strategies and programs on flood risk management in the  
12 context of integrated flood management (IFM) which integrates water,  
13 land, coastal zone and multi-hazard management. In integrating land-use  
14 planning and water management, the Department should harmonize and  
15 synthesize plans to enable the sharing of information between land-use  
16 planning and water management authorities. In integrating hazard  
17 management, a holistic approach should be adopted so that IFM would be  
18 part of a wider risk or multi-hazard management system (e.g. earthquake,  
19 landslides, fire, tsunami, etc.);
- 20 b) Integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction and management in  
21 policies and plans;
- 22 c) Prepare master plans of flood management and drainage in river basins in  
23 coordination with the concerned water resources region and river basin  
24 organizations;
- 25 d) Prepare master plans of urban drainage in cities/municipalities;
- 26 e) Prepare feasibility studies of recommended measures in the master plans;
- 27 f) Plan and design structural measures for flood control and drainage;
- 28 g) Implement and/or collaborate with concerned agencies on the non-  
29 structural measures;
- 30 h) Patrol and investigate rivers including the monitoring of stream flows;
- 31 i) Conduct post-disaster investigation and evaluation and damage assessment  
32 of flood infrastructures after extreme events;
- 33 j) Conduct research development on water and sediment-related disasters;
- 34 k) Develop design guidelines, criteria and standards on flood control and  
35 drainage structures;
- 36 l) Provide technical assistance to other agencies, LGUs and other  
37 stakeholders;
- 38 m) Advise the Secretary on declaring flood control areas and recommend  
39 guidelines for flood plain management plans in these areas; and
- 40 n) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
41 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

42 **SECTION 26. *Bureau of Water Quality Management.*** – The Bureau of Water  
43 Quality Management is hereby created to supervise and control over all aspects of  
44 water quality management to ensure the sustainability of the country's water  
45 resources and the protection of the environment. It should consider proper and

1 integrated treatment of freshwater and wastewater within the whole process. For  
2 this purpose, it shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 3 a) Establish water quality guidelines for freshwater and coastal/marine waters  
4 as basis for classifying water bodies in the country, Specifically, develop  
5 water quality indices or composite metrics to measure the quality status  
6 and health of natural water bodies in relation to ecological integrity and  
7 function.
- 8 b) Establish effluent standards for point sources of pollution;
- 9 c) Establish internationally accepted procedures for sampling and analysis;
- 10 d) Prepare an integrated water quality management framework;
- 11 e) Prepare 10-year water quality management plans for each water quality  
12 management area as part of the River Basin Master Plans and in support of  
13 the National Water Resources Management Master Plan;
- 14 f) Classify groundwater sources and prepare a national groundwater  
15 vulnerability map;
- 16 g) Classifying or reclassifying all water bodies according to their beneficial  
17 usages using the established water quality guidelines established;
- 18 h) Issue permits, clearances and similar instruments pursuant to the Clean  
19 Water Act of 2004;
- 20 i) Collect the wastewater discharge (EUF) fees for all permittees;
- 21 j) Monitor the compliance of water discharge permittees with the effluent  
22 standards;
- 23 k) Regularly monitor the water quality of major water bodies in the country  
24 and analyze the data to identify possible sources of pollution;
- 25 l) Issue notices of violations and/or cease and desist orders for those found  
26 in violation;
- 27 m) File the needed cases against violators with the Pollution Adjudication  
28 Board;
- 29 n) Serve as secretariat of the PAB; and
- 30 o) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
31 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

32 **SECTION 27. *Water Resources Regional Offices.*** – The *Water Resources*  
33 *Regional Offices*, organized per water resources region shall be responsible for  
34 implementing the mandates, powers and duties of the Department at the field level,  
35 except for policymaking which will be vested solely with the Central Office. The  
36 master planning for the nearby river basins (e.g. Pasig-Marikina-Laguna Lake-Cavite)  
37 will likewise be the responsibility of the Central Office. For this purpose, the duties  
38 and responsibilities of the WRRO shall be as follows:

- 39 a) Formulate or update and coordinate the river basin master plans for river  
40 basins within its jurisdictions ensuring consistency with the National Water  
41 Resources Management Master Plan;
- 42 b) Advocate and strongly support the creation and functioning of multi-  
43 stakeholder River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and serve as the secretariat  
44 of the said RBOs;

- c) Undertake and evaluate the planning, design, and work supervision functions of the Department for the water infrastructures within the region;
- d) Ensure the implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules and regulations regarding the abovementioned infrastructure as well as public and private physical structures;
- e) Provide technical assistance related to the water-related functions of other agencies within the region especially the local government;
- f) Coordinate with other departments, agencies, institutions and organizations, especially local government units within the region in the planning and implementation of the river basin master plans;
- g) Conduct continuing consultations with the local communities, take appropriate measures to make the services of the Department responsive to the Central Office and recommend such appropriate actions as may be necessary; and
- h) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

The Department shall retain and have such Project Management Offices as may be required, which shall be under the supervision and control of the appropriate Water Resources Regional Office Director, unless otherwise determined by the Secretary for reasons of supra-regional scope, magnitude and multi-functional coverage.

**SECTION 28. *Water Resources Regional Director.*** – The Water Resources Regional Offices shall be headed by a Water Resources Regional Director who shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Office. Towards this end, the Water Resources Regional Director shall, within his/her defined powers exercise functional and administrative supervision over all units within the region including the authority to commit their resources and personnel to integrated regional water resources management, water supply and sanitation management, and flood control and flood risk management initiatives. The Water Resources Regional Director shall also perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

The Water Resources Regional Director shall be assisted by two (2) Assistant Water Resources Regional Office Directors who shall exercise supervision respectively over (1) the planning, project design and evaluation function and (2) technical assistance to River Basin Organizations within the water resources region.

### **CHAPTER 3 – TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION 29. *Interface with Other Agencies.***

- a) The Department of Health (DOH) shall continue to have primary authority and responsibility for setting and enforcing drinking water quality standards. The Department shall coordinate with DOH in this regard and shall ensure consistency of standards and targets which I will set for compliance of permittees with the DOH's mandated standards;

- 1 b) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall  
2 continue to have primary authority and responsibility for protecting the  
3 environment and managing the country's watersheds;
- 4 c) The Department of Energy and the National Power Corporation (NPC) shall  
5 continue to have primary authority and responsibility for setting up and  
6 running hydropower plants but will ensure that any hydropower plant  
7 development plans are consistent with the National Water Development  
8 and Management Plan;
- 9 d) The Department shall coordinate with the Department of Agriculture to  
10 ensure agricultural development that reduces sources of long-term  
11 pollution for surface water and groundwater, and agricultural and industrial  
12 economic development that employs water efficiency, water  
13 recycling/reuse and the appropriate treatment of wastewater;
- 14 e) The Department shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction  
15 Management Council (NDRRMC) to ensure that its plans and designs for  
16 flood control, flood risk management and drought risk management are  
17 aligned with the objectives and plans of the said Department; and
- 18 f) The Department shall coordinate with relevant government agencies,  
19 including Local Government Units (LGUs) for development projects and to  
20 ensure cross-cutting collaboration between and among all water subsectors  
21 and facilitate inter-agency subsector coordination, strategic development,  
22 planning, monitoring and provision of technical, institutional and financial  
23 capacity building support to their different stakeholders at the water  
24 subsector level.

25 **SECTION 30. *Transfer of Rights and Obligations.***

26 The Department shall, by virtue of this Act, be surrogated to all the rights and  
27 assume all the obligations of the government agencies and units whose powers and  
28 functions have been absorbed, transferred or attached to the Department provided  
29 these are in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit.  
30 The transfer of powers and functions as herein provided shall take effect within 6  
31 months of the effectivity of this Act. As such as, all affected agencies/offices/units  
32 shall continue to function under their present mandates until the transition is fully in  
33 effect.

34 **SECTION 31. *Funding.***

35 The sum of Two Billion pesos (P2,000,000,000.00) shall be set aside from available  
36 funds of the National Treasury, and is hereby appropriated and released for the  
37 organization of the Department and its initial operations. Thereafter, the Department  
38 shall submit its annual budget to fully carry out its powers and functions and achieve  
39 its objectives to the Office of the President, for approval, provided it shall not be less  
40 than the amount provided for in its initial implementation.

41 **SECTION 32. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, rules and regulations, or  
42 portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
43 accordingly.

44 **SECTION 33. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act or the application  
45 of such provision to any person or circumstances be declared unconstitutional, the

1 remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other person or  
2 circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

3 **SECTION 34. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the  
4 date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general  
5 circulation.

6  
7 ***Approved...***