

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

HOUSE BILL NO. **4310**



**Introduced by Representative Florida P. Robes**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Rainwater is one of the oldest source of water which, not only plants and animals can use, provide the needed water supply for humanity's survival. Aside from being free, the Philippines, being a tropical country, has abundant rainwater supply. In fact, rainwater harvesting can be traced back to the 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Many years back, Filipino homes have rainwater gutters and pipes where rainwater flows and eventually stored in water buckets or pails. The water harvested can be used during drought. This system can help mitigate flooding of low-lying areas, and reduced demand on wells which may enable groundwater levels to be sustained. In fact, rainwater is substantially free of salinity and other salts. Hence, it is safe. However, due to the changing of times, people are scared of storing rainwater because of possible contaminants caused by too much pollution in our midst.

In order to ascertain and assure the safety of its use, a proper technology of rainwater harvesting must be properly instituted. Hence, this proposal. Its approval will be beneficial to the constituency of the City of San Jose Del Monte. It will supplement the water supply and will serve as a contingency during water shortage or interruptions.

I would look forward to the immediate approval of this proposal.

  
**FLORIDA P. ROBES**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4310**

**Introduced by Representative Florida P. Robes**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM  
IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby a declared policy of the State to maximize the use of natural resources by ensuring a mechanism that will promote, regulate and sustain its utilization such as rainwater. If properly managed, it can supplement the dwindling water supply and prevent flash flooding.

**SEC. 2. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) Rainwater harvesting – refers to the accumulation and deposition of rainwater for reuse on-site and water collected is redirected to a deep pit, a reservoir with percolation and provides an independent water supply during water restrictions and shortages or to supplement the main supply.
- (b) Rainwater harvesting system – refers to the process of collecting rainwater and then storing it for domestic use such as irrigation, laundry, flushing and with additional treatment as drinking water,
- (c) Rainwater – is 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.
- (d) Rainwater catchment – is an area where rainwater is collected.

**SEC. 3. Institutionalization.** A rainwater harvesting system is hereby institutionalized in the City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. This is to adapt and implement programs that promote sustainability and maximization of natural resources and in consonance with the commitment and realization by the Philippine government of the benefits of Green technologies.

**SEC. 4. Installation of Rainwater Catchment.** Rainwater catchment or storage tanks shall be installed and constructed in all the barangays of the City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan through a technology that uses materials that will not leach toxins into water under either normal or acid rain conditions and water storage tanks that are not susceptible to contaminants. While considering cost-efficiency of materials to be used, the safety of the users is pivotal.

**SEC. 5. Rainwater Treatment.** To ensure the quality of rainwater for drinking purposes, it shall undergo filtration and purification mechanism to make the water potable and safe. A rainwater treatment device shall also be installed in order for rainwater to be safe for drinking.

**SEC. 6. Operation and Maintenance.** The operation and maintenance shall be invested upon the barangay government headed by a Chairman to ensure proper distribution and utilization and ensure regular cleaning and inspection of the gutters and down-pipes and removal of dirt, leaves and other accumulated materials. Additional care is required to avoid damage and contamination by people and animals.

**SEC. 7. Monitoring and Evaluation.** – The Department of Health shall conduct regular monitoring and evaluation to determine the safety of the rainwater system.

**SEC. 8. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in infrastructure projects of the concerned government agency or agencies.

**SEC 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in consultation with the local chief executive and the legislative representative, shall formulate the guidelines to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 12. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,