

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City



Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

0193  
House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Representatives  
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

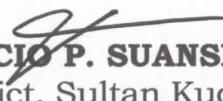
In 2015, the World Resources Institute issued a warning that the Philippines is vulnerable to severe water shortage in the coming years because of the combined impact of its rapid population growth and the effects of climate change. The water shortage is further aggravated by the fragmented and overlapping functions of water agencies in the country. The enactment of a feasible long-term solution for the protection of water is necessary to combat this threat.

This bill seeks to rationalize the management of water resources, sewage, and sanitation through the creation of the Department of Water Resources and Services. It shall set the policy for the preservation of water resources in the country, regulate its supply to ensure optimal use and devise ways and means for the long-term safety, protection and preservation of this very important natural resource. It will likewise manage sanitation and the services for the sewerages or drainage. It is also responsible for the building, maintaining and monitoring of water-related infrastructure to ensure quality, accessible and potable water; promoting and pushing for the adoption of acceptable international policies and best practices in water management to achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation.

A study by the World Water Organization shows that water supply in the Philippines is diminishing. The availability of affordable and safe drinking water and a working sanitation system is a basic necessity for all Filipinos which must be addressed. The lack of a holistic program for water resources management creates a perennial problem that seriously affects the lives of our citizens in terms of health, sanitation, food security and livelihood, which are indispensable for social and economic development.

To ensure Filipinos the benefit of this fundamental human right, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
REP. ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija

  
REP. HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat

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## **Eighteenth Congress First Regular Session**

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House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Introduced by Representatives  
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.**

**AN ACT**

**CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

## **CHAPTER I**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

4 SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Water Resources  
5 Management and Rationalization Act.”

6 SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall promote and protect the  
7 right of the people to safe, clean and affordable water as a basic human right.  
8 Further, the State recognizes that safe, clean and affordable drinking water  
9 and proper sanitation are essential to the full enjoyment by the people of life  
10 and the protection and sustainability of the environment. Towards this end,  
11 the State shall ensure that people have access to safe, clean and affordable  
12 drinking water and proper sanitation services and facilities.

13 In pursuit of this policy, the objectives of this Act are as follows:

- 14           a) Establish the basic principles and framework relating to the  
15 appropriation, control and conservation of water resources to achieve their  
16 optimum development and national utilization;

17           b) Implement programs for the attainment of universal access to  
18 safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply and sanitation  
19 services for all Filipinos, and adopt all necessary measures directed towards  
20 this end;

21           c) Promote international participation in the education and sharing  
22 of information to achieve universal access to water and sanitation, and the  
23 integration of water, energy, environment, and food security;

1           d) Strengthen and coordinate water resource planning and policy-  
2 making to ensure sustainable and fair allocation and efficient use of water  
3 resources between competing water uses and users, including domestic and  
4 municipal use, irrigation, power generation, farming, fisheries, commercial  
5 and industrial use;

6 e) Strengthen and coordinate policy and planning in relation to flood  
7 control and flood risk management in order to plan, prevent, and reduce the  
8 detrimental and catastrophic effects of flood waters;

9 f) Secure and regulate all public works in order to obtain the  
10 highest efficiency and the most appropriate quality in construction and to  
11 plan, design, construct and maintain infrastructure facilities in accordance  
12 with national development objectives; and

13 g) Ensure the effective implementation of Republic Act No. 9275  
14 otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004."

## **CHAPTER II**

## **ORGANIZATION**

17 SEC. 3. ***Department of Water Resources and Services.*** – There is hereby  
18 established a Department of Water Resources and Services, hereinafter  
19 referred to as the Department, to manage, control and protect water resources  
20 for domestic purposes, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, fisheries,  
21 aquaculture, flood control, recreation, and for the enhancement and  
22 maintenance of water quality.

23 The following agencies or corporate entities are hereby transferred to  
24 the Department from the authority of their current mother agencies or offices:

25           a) The National Water Resources Board (NWRB), which is currently  
26 under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

b) The Local Water Utilities Administration, which is currently under the Office of the President;

29           c)     The National Irrigation Administration, which is currently under  
30 the Office of the President; and

31 d) All other government agencies or offices that supervise/manage  
32 inland water bodies such as the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the  
33 Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, among others.

Likewise, the Department shall be responsible for the enforcement functions of Republic Act No. 9275, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, as well as all the other water management functions of the

1 Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR.

2 The Department shall be organized within one hundred eighty (180)  
3 days after the approval of this Act.

4 SEC. 4. **Powers and Duties of the Department.** – The Department shall  
5 exercise the following powers and duties:

6 a) Formulate and develop policies to promote universal access to  
7 safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water supply, and sanitation  
8 services;

9 b) Manage and protect the water resources to ensure the optimal  
10 use thereof for domestic water supply, sewage, sanitation, irrigation,  
11 hydropower, navigation, flood control and recreation, including the  
12 enhancement and maintenance of water quality, conservation of watersheds,  
13 control of water pollution and environmental restoration, without  
14 compromising the natural ecosystem functions and services;

15 c) Manage the ownership, appropriation, utilization, exploitation,  
16 development, conservation and protection of water resources;

17 d) Formulate and enforce rules and regulations in the  
18 administration and management of the water resources and implement rules  
19 and guidelines for the enforcement of the laws on water;

20 e) Coordinate with relevant entities to provide policy directions,  
21 strategies and targets to meet the goals and objectives of water supply, and  
22 sanitation management by integrating the issues of safe water and sanitation;

23 f) Conduct continuing surveys and studies of renewable water  
24 supply with a view towards formulating long-term policies to balance the  
25 sustainability and optimal use of water resources, defining the hydrologic  
26 boundaries of basins of the existing water supply sources, and creating and  
27 implementing countrywide masterplans for water resources management and  
28 development;

29 g) Undertake and coordinate with other agencies and government  
30 entities in data gathering, scientific research and studies on water resources  
31 management and development, and conduct nationwide hydrologic surveys  
32 to determine the annual renewable water available per region;

33 h) Classify water quality standards for surface and ground water,  
34 including establishing national standards for drinking water and wastewater;

35 i) Effect inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and inter-departmental

1 planning, data gathering, research and developmental studies on safe water  
2 and sanitation and compel submissions of statistic and data on water  
3 management with the aim of operationalizing the integrated approach to  
4 water resources management;

5 j) Regulate and control the utilization, exploitation, abstraction,  
6 diversion and development of water resources, taking into consideration its  
7 equitable distribution, and determine the standards of beneficial and priority  
8 uses of water in times of crisis and national emergencies;

9 k) Assist and provide the National Economic and Development  
10 Authority (NEDA) with required data and inputs from and for the water sector  
11 in the formulation of the short-term and long-term strategic development  
12 plans and actions;

13 l) Coordinate with other relevant agencies and develop policies and  
14 plans in respect of water resources used for farming, including sustainable  
15 mechanisms for irrigation;

16 m) Study all plans, programs, or development projects, that affect  
17 water resources, its diversion or abstraction, and the construction of  
18 hydraulic facilities, including plans and projects in watershed or basin areas  
19 of water supply sources, which have direct or indirect impact on the affected  
20 locality's water resources;

21 n) Review from time to time regulations prescribed by any  
22 government agency pertaining to water use, exploitation, development,  
23 conservation, or protection of waters, water resources and watershed or basin  
24 areas;

25 o) Authorize its representatives or any deputized agent to enter any  
26 property of public dominion or any private land, building or enclave, whether  
27 inhabited or not, for the purpose of conducting hydrologic surveys and  
28 investigations, including assessing and evaluating the conditions of water  
29 facilities installed and determining compliance with water laws and  
30 standards;

31 p) Require local government units (LGUs) and national agencies to  
32 submit zoning and land use management plans to ensure the integration of  
33 water resource management plans. No zoning and land use plan shall become  
34 effective and enforceable unless and until a certification of integration of  
35 water, and sanitation resource management plan has been issued by the  
36 Department;

37 q) Provide technical assistance to water, sewer and sanitation users,

1 including farmers and LGUs, whether directly or in coordination with other  
2 agencies, to assist them in applying for water permits and providing data on  
3 water and sanitation resource usage;

4 r) Provide integrated planning for flood control, flood risk  
5 management and water resource development and management systems, and  
6 other public works;

7 s) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may  
8 be necessary to implement and enforce its powers and functions under this  
9 Act;

10 t) Appoint, hire and maintain adequate staff and personnel,  
11 advisers or consultants with suitable qualifications and experience, as maybe  
12 necessary;

13 u) Exercise such other powers and functions necessary or incidental  
14 or that which the President may assign to the Department to carry out the  
15 objectives of this Act and for the effective administration and management  
16 of water and sanitation;

17 **SEC. 5. *Department Secretary, Powers and Functions.*** – The authority  
18 and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for  
19 the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary of  
20 the Department, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, who shall be  
21 appointed by the President of the Philippines.

22 The Secretary shall exercise the following powers and functions:

23 a) Advise the President on the promulgation of executive or  
24 administrative orders, regulations, proclamations and other issuances  
25 relative to matters under the jurisdiction of the Department;

26 b) Establish the policies and standards for the operation of the  
27 Department pursuant to the President's guidelines; and

28 c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the  
29 objectives, policies and functions of the Department.

30 No person shall be appointed Secretary unless the appointee  
31 possesses extensive knowledge of public administration and has a minimum  
32 ten (10) years of experience in the administration of water resources or  
33 sanitation programs, preferably in a public agency.

34 **SEC. 6. *Office of the Secretary.*** – The Office of the Secretary shall be  
35 composed of the Secretary and immediate staff.

1 SEC. 7. ***Undersecretaries.*** – The Secretary shall be assisted by not more  
2 than three (3) Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon  
3 the recommendation of the Secretary. The Secretary is hereby authorized to  
4 delineate and assign the respective functional areas of responsibility of the  
5 Undersecretaries with respect to the mandate and objectives of the  
6 Department.

7 Within the functional area of responsibility, an Undersecretary shall  
8 have the following functions:

- 9           a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and  
10 implementation of Department policies, plans, programs and projects;  
11           b) Supervise all the operational activities of the assigned units for  
12 which the Undersecretary is responsible to the Secretary; and  
13           c) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be  
14 assigned or delegated by the Secretary to promote efficiency and effectiveness  
15 in the delivery of public services or as may be required by this Act or other  
16 laws.

17           The Undersecretaries must possess a working knowledge of public  
18 administration and must have a minimum of seven (7) years of experience in  
19 the administration of water or sanitation programs, preferably in a public  
20 agency or with legal or financial knowledge of such programs.

21           The Undersecretaries shall exercise the powers and functions as  
22 provided under Section 10, Chapter 2, Book IV of the Administrative Code of  
23 1987.

24 SEC. 8. ***Assistant Secretaries.*** – The Secretary shall also be assisted by five  
25 (5) Assistant Secretaries appointed by the President of the Philippines upon  
26 the recommendation of the Secretary: one (1) for the Monitoring and  
27 Information Service; one (1) for the Planning Service; one (1) for the  
28 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service; one (1) for the Legal  
29 Service; and one (1) for the Administrative and Manpower Management  
30 Service.

31           The Assistant Secretaries must possess a working knowledge of public  
32 administration and must have a minimum of five (5) years of experience in  
33 the administration of water or sanitation programs, or other public works  
34 programs.

35           The Assistant Secretaries shall perform such duties and functions as  
36 may be assigned by the Secretary or provided for by law.

37 SEC. 9. ***Organizational Structure.*** – The Department shall be composed of

1 the following organizational units:

2       a) Department proper consisting of the Office of the Secretary, the  
3 Offices of the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, the Administrative  
4 and Human Resource Management Service, Monitoring and Information  
5 Service, Planning Service, Comptrollership and Financial Management  
6 Service and Legal Service;

7       b) The National Water Resources Board, whose mandate, powers  
8 and functions are found in Presidential Decree No. 424, as amended;

9       c) The Local Water Utilities Administration, whose mandate, powers  
10 and functions are defined in Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended;

11      d) The National Irrigation Administration, whose mandate, power  
12 and functions are stated in Republic Act No. 3601, as amended and  
13 Presidential Decree No. 552, as amended;

14      e) The Water Management Bureau, which is tasked to enforce and  
15 implement Republic Act No. 9275 and all environmental laws related to water  
16 management and conservation; and

17      f) Regional offices, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the  
18 Secretary.

19 SEC. 10. ***Administrative and Manpower Management Service.*** – The  
20 Administrative and Manpower Management Service of the Department is  
21 responsible for providing the Department with services relating to human  
22 resources development, personnel, records, facilities maintenance, medical  
23 and dental, security, and property and procurement services. For such  
24 purposes, it shall have the following functions:

25       a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to internal  
26 administration and human resources management;

27       b) Prepare and implement an integrated personnel plan that  
28 includes provisions on merit promotions, performance evaluation, job  
29 rotation, suggestions and incentive awards systems, and health and welfare  
30 services;

31       c) Provide services related to human resources training, education  
32 and development, including manpower, career planning and forecasting, and  
33 development of indigenous training materials;

34       d) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and cost-effective  
35 property procurement system and facilities and coordinate or otherwise  
36 interface with relevant agencies, whether government or private, for the  
37 purpose of developing or upgrading the system;

38       e) Secure and maintain necessary Department facilities, and  
39 develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and effective security system  
40 covering, among others, personnel, physical installations, equipment,

1 documents, and materials, including the conduct of security investigations;  
2           f) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies for a more  
3 efficient conduct of administrative processes;  
4           g) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient records system;  
5           h) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to the Department  
6 proper, bureaus, and regional offices and, when requested, the government  
7 agencies and corporations attached to the Department; and  
8           i) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be  
9 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

10 SEC. 11. ***Monitoring and Information Service.*** – The Monitoring and  
11 Information Service is responsible for providing the Secretary timely reports  
12 on the status of various Department projects and activities and develop and  
13 implement information programs for mass dissemination in coordination with  
14 the appropriate government agencies.

15           The Monitoring and Information Service shall have the following  
16 functions:

17           a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to monitoring and  
18 public information;  
19           b) Develop and maintain a system for retrieving and processing  
20 monitoring information on all projects and activities of concern to the  
21 Secretary;  
22           c) Provide accurate and timely status and exception reports to the  
23 Secretary;  
24           d) Generate monitoring reports for the President, the Cabinet, or for  
25 any other purpose as required by the Secretary;  
26           e) Develop and supervise the implementation of communications  
27 programs to have relevant policies, programs, and plans of the Department  
28 understood by the public;  
29           f) Produce and supervise the dissemination of media materials in  
30 line with national government public information programs;  
31           g) Coordinate with the appropriate national government agencies  
32 tasked with public information affairs; and  
33           h) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be  
34 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

35 SEC. 12. ***Planning Service.*** – The Planning Service is responsible for  
36 providing the Department with the capability to undertake infrastructure  
37 development planning and programming. For this purpose, it shall have the  
38 following functions:

39           a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to infrastructure

1 planning;

2        b) Assist the Undersecretaries on all matters related to the specific  
3 functions of the position;

4        c) Formulate strategies and priorities for infrastructure  
5 development consistent with national development objectives and initiate or  
6 undertake relevant surveys for development planning;

7        d) Formulate long-range, medium-term, and annual development  
8 plans and programs for infrastructure, including flood control, water resource  
9 development systems, and other public works projects, including phasing of  
10 implementation and review and integrate land use plans with these water  
11 development plans;

12       e) Identify priority packages for infrastructure development,  
13 including flood control, water resource development systems, and other  
14 public works projects, and undertake or supervise and evaluate the conduct  
15 of feasibility studies and project preparation thereof;

16       f) Prioritize project implementation and the allocation of funds and  
17 other resources and package project proposals for funding and  
18 implementation;

19       g) Evaluate and appraise all regional interregional infrastructure  
20 development plans and programs as to their feasibility and consistency with  
21 approved strategies and long and medium-term plans;

22       h) Initiate regular Department-wide planning exercises and act as  
23 the secretariat thereof;

24       i) Gather, analyze and organize needed statistical data and  
25 information;

26       j) Provide technical assistance related to its functions to the other  
27 services, bureaus and the regional offices as needed; and

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

30 SEC. 13. **Comptrollership and Financial Management Service.** – The  
31 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service is responsible for  
32 providing the Department with coordinated services relating to financial  
33 systems and procedures, budget, cash, accounting and all financial  
34 housekeeping matters. For such purposes, it shall have the following  
35 functions:

36       a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to the accounting of  
37 government expenditures and receipts, budgeting and cash management,  
38 project finances, and financial systems and procedures;

39       b) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget  
40 authorizations, undertake budget execution, and prepare and submit all  
41 appropriate reports to the proper offices;

1                   c) Develop and maintain accounting, financial and assets  
2 management systems, procedures and practices in the Department proper,  
3 bureaus, and regional offices;

4                   d) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the  
5 Department and, when requested, to government corporations and councils  
6 attached to the Department; and

7                   e) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational  
8 structure, assets management practices, accounting and other records,  
9 reports and performance standards such as budgets and standard costs of  
10 the Department proper, bureaus, and regional offices;

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

13 SEC. 14. **Legal Service.** – The Legal Service is responsible for providing the  
14 Department with services on such legal affairs as contract letting and  
15 litigation, legal and legislative research, complaints and investigation, legal  
16 counseling, and other matters of law. For such purposes, it shall have the  
17 following functions:

18                  a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to legal affairs;  
19                  b) Prepare Department contracts and legal instruments, review and  
20 interpret all contracts and agreements entered into by the Department, and  
21 evaluate all legal proposals;

22                  c) Conduct administrative investigation as well as the review of  
23 administrative charges against officers and employees of the Department;

24                  d) Exercise functional jurisdiction over the legal staffs of regional  
25 offices;

26                  e) Provide legal assistance to the Department proper, the bureaus,  
27 and regional offices and, when requested, the attached corporations; and

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

30 SEC. 15. **Regional Office.** – Regional offices shall be responsible for flood  
31 control, water resource development systems and other public works within  
32 their regional jurisdiction. For this purpose, their duties and responsibilities  
33 shall be as follows:

34                  a) Undertake and evaluate the planning, design, construction and  
35 works supervision functions of the Department for the infrastructure projects  
36 within the region;

37                  b) Undertake the maintenance of the infrastructure within the  
38 region and supervise the maintenance of such local infrastructure receiving  
39 national government financial assistance as the Secretary may determine;

40                  c) Ensure the implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules and

1 regulations regarding the infrastructure as well as all public and private  
2 physical structures;

3                   d) Provide technical assistance related to their functions to other  
4 agencies within the region especially the local government;

5           e) Coordinate with other departments, agencies, institutions and  
6 organizations, especially local government units within the region, in the  
7 planning and implementation of infrastructure projects;

8                   f)     Conduct continuing consultations with the local communities,  
9 take appropriate measures to make the services of the Department responsive  
10 to the needs of the general public, compile and submit such information to  
11 the central office, and recommend such appropriate actions as may be  
12 necessary; and

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

15 The Department shall retain and have such project management offices  
16 as may be required, which shall be under the supervision and control of the  
17 appropriate regional director, unless otherwise determined by the Secretary  
18 for reasons of supra-regional scope, magnitude and multi-functional  
19 coverage.

20 SEC. 16. ***Regional Director.*** – The regional office shall be headed by a  
21 regional director who shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively  
22 carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the regional office. Towards  
23 this end, the regional director shall, within the defined powers, exercise  
24 functional and administrative supervision over district offices within the  
25 region including the authority to commit their resources and personnel to  
26 integrated regional water management and flood control and flood risk  
27 management initiatives. The regional director shall also perform such other  
28 related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the  
29 Secretary or as may be required by law.

30 The regional director shall be assisted by one (1) assistant regional  
31 director who shall exercise supervision the planning, project design,  
32 evaluation and technical assistance functions of the regional office.

## **CHAPTER III**

## **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

### **35 SEC. 17. *Interface with Other Sector Regulators.* –**

36           a) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)  
37 shall continue to have the primary authority and responsibility for protecting  
38 the environment and shall complement the Department's responsibility for

1 the conservation of water and related natural resources, including protecting  
2 water bodies from waste and pollution. It shall continue to promulgate rules,  
3 regulations, and standards in this regard. The Department shall coordinate  
4 with the DENR with respect to the conservation of water resources.

5 b) The Department of Health (DOH) shall have primary authority  
6 and responsibility for determining and enforcing drinking water quality and  
7 sanitation standards. The Department shall coordinate with the DOH to  
8 achieve an integrated approach for sanitation, including collection, treatment,  
9 and evaluation of wastewater.

10 c) The Department shall share responsibility with the Department  
11 of Public Works and Highways for wholly or primarily water-related public  
12 works projects including flood control, water resources development,  
13 sewerage, sanitation, and the harnessing and impounding of water. The  
14 Secretaries of each department shall coordinate on the development of  
15 evaluation criteria, as necessary, to determine proper allocation of public  
16 works projects between the two departments.

17 d) The Department shall coordinate with the Department of  
18 Agriculture to ensure agricultural development that reduces sources of long  
19 term pollution for surface water and groundwater, and agricultural and  
20 industrial economic development through irrigation, water recycling and  
21 treating wastewater.

22 SEC. 18. ***Transfer of Rights and Obligations.*** – The Department shall, by  
23 virtue of this Act, be subrogated to all the rights, and assume all the  
24 obligations of the relevant parts of any government agency or unit whose  
25 powers and functions have been transferred to the Department.

26 The transfer of powers and functions as indicated in the preceding  
27 paragraph, as applicable, and agencies attached thereto, as herein provided  
28 for, shall take effect within one hundred eighty (180) days after the effectiveness  
29 of this Act. The foregoing transfer of powers and functions shall include all  
30 applicable funds, personnel, records, property, and equipment, as may be  
31 necessary. All offices shall continue to function under their present mandates  
32 until transition is effected as provided for under this Act.

33 All rights and obligations of said government agencies are hereby  
34 transferred to and assumed by the Department and shall be acted upon in  
35 accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit and  
36 other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

37 SEC. 19. ***Separation from Service.*** – Employees separated from government  
38 service as a result of this Act shall, within six (6) months from their separation  
39 from the service, receive the benefits to which they may be entitled under  
40 existing laws, rules, and regulations.

1 SEC. 20. **Funding.** – The sum of One hundred million pesos  
2 (P100,000,000.00) shall be set aside from any available funds of the National  
3 Treasury, and is hereby appropriated and authorized to be released, for the  
4 organization of the Department and its initial operations.

5 Thereafter, funds sufficient to fully carry out the objectives, powers and  
6 functions of the Department shall be included in the annual General  
7 Appropriations Act.

8 The Department shall submit its annual budget, which shall include,  
9 among others, detailed information on the compensation and benefits  
10 received by their employees, to the Office of the President for approval.

11 SEC. 21. **Periodic Performance Evaluation.** – The Department is hereby  
12 required to formulate and enforce a system of measuring and evaluating  
13 periodically and objectively the performance of the Department and submit  
14 the same annually to the President.

15 SEC. 22. **Prohibition Against Organizational Change.** – No change in the  
16 organizational structure herein prescribed shall be valid except upon prior  
17 approval of the President for the purpose of promoting efficiency and  
18 effectiveness in the delivery of public services.

19 SEC. 23. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
20 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected  
21 shall remain in full force and effect.

22 SEC. 24. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of  
23 instructions, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or  
24 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this  
25 Act are hereby revoked, repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

26 Accordingly, sub-sections 4(i) and 4(ee) of Republic Act No. 9275,  
27 entitled “*Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004*,” Section 1 of Executive Order No.  
28 860, entitled “*Redefining the Composition and Powers of the National Water  
Resources Board*,” Series of 2010, Section 49 of Presidential Decree No. 198,  
29 entitled “*Declaring a National Policy Favoring Local Operation and Control of  
Water Systems; Authorizing the Formation of Local Water Districts and  
Providing for the Government and Administration of such Districts; Chartering  
a National Administration to Facilitate Improvement of Local Water Utilities;  
Granting said Administration such Powers as are Necessary to Optimize Public  
Service from Water Utility Operations, and For Other Purposes*,” as amended,  
30 and Executive Order No. 165, entitled “*Transferring the National Food  
Authority, National Irrigation Administration, Philippine Coconut Authority, and  
Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority to the Office of the President*,” Series of 2014,

- 1 are hereby amended or modified accordingly to be consistent with this Act.
- 2 SEC. 25. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
- 3 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,