

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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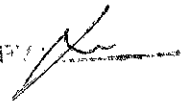
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 72

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO LOOK INTO THE CURRENT FRAGMENTATION OF WATER RESOURCES PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT GIVEN THE LACK OF A WATER REGULATORY BODY TO ADDRESS THE WATER ISSUES IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY

WHEREAS, water is an important resource for sustainable development;

WHEREAS, AQUASTAT, a global database of water statistics by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations places the surface water resources produced internally by the Philippines at 444 cubic kilometers, per capita water resources at 6,093 cubic kilometers, and natural renewable water resources at 479 cubic kilometers;

WHEREAS, these water resources go mainly to agriculture (88%), domestic (8%), and industry (4%);

WHEREAS, despite these abundant sources of water, the government is unable to provide enough water for its citizens, especially in Metro Manila and nearby provinces;

WHEREAS, some of the reasons presented are increasing water demand, increased competition in the use of water resources, increasing pollution of water resources, and watershed degradation;

WHEREAS, the long-term availability of adequate supply of clean water at a reasonable price must be ensured given its importance for sanitation, agriculture, industry, power production, recreation, navigation, domestic consumption, and other activities;

WHEREAS, there is a need to adopt a more integrated and holistic management of our water resources which shall involve the coordinated development and

management of water, land and related resources within the hydrological boundaries;

WHEREAS, there is a multiplicity of agencies and consequent fragmentation of water resources planning and management, creating some overlaps of responsibilities and conflicts among agencies;¹

WHEREAS, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) remains at the forefront of coordinating and regulating the activities of water resources agencies and the water-related activities in the 12 water resources regions of the country;

WHEREAS, the NWRB membership comprises heads of the departments and agencies with no direct claims on water resources, namely the:

- (a) Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- (b) National Economic Development Authority
- (c) Department of Justice
- (d) Department of Finance
- (e) Department of Health
- (f) National Hydraulic Research Centre
- (g) University of the Philippines
- (h) The Executive Director of NWRB, as the head of the Secretariat.

WHEREAS, there are some 30 government agencies and offices concerned with water resources development and management responsible with their respective sectoral concerns such as water supply, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, water management, etc;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources exercises direct-line supervision, authority and control over its respective bureaus and other offices concerning water and water basins;

WHEREAS, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) coordinates the activities of all sectors at the national level, while NWRB coordinates the water resources sector, and the regional councils and authorities deal with regional activities;

WHEREAS, some other stakeholders include the major water service providers and users such as the National Irrigation Administration and the Bureau of Soil and Water Management for irrigation and drainage; Local Water Utilities Administration/Water Districts, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System through its concessionaires, Department of the Interior and Local Government/Local Governments Units for municipal and industrial water supply; and National Power Corporation for hydropower;

¹ <http://www.unescap.org/esd/water/publications/water/wrs/85/08%20WRS85-Philippines.pdf>

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for drinking water quality regulation and supervision of general sanitation activities while the Department of Public Works and Highways-Project Management Office for Major Flood Control Project (DPWH-PMO-MFCP) is responsible for flood control mitigation;

WHEREAS, the creation of an independent water regulatory body responsible for both resource and economic regulation must be looked into;

WHEREAS, a systematic approach to water resources management, must be established and all government efforts in the formulation and implementation of integrated water policies must be consolidated and harmonized;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, to look into, in aid of legislation, the current fragmentation of water resources planning and management and the creation of an independent water regulatory body to address the water issues in our country today.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator