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SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE

S. B. No. 3036

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III

AN ACT

EXEMPTING WATER DISTRICTS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 7656
WHICH REQUIRED GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED
CORPORATIONS TO REMIT 50% OF THEIR ANNUAL NET EARNINGS TO
THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7656 requires local water districts to remit 50% of their annual net earnings to the National Government. This poses a threat to the viability and financial stability of local water districts. It limits the purposes on which local water districts are created under Presidential Decree No. 198, especially in the expansion, improvement and maintenance of water supply system and in the operation and maintenance of waste water collection treatment and disposal facilities.

Understanding the plight of local water districts, Congress recently passed Republic Act No. 10026, exempting local water districts from income taxes, recognizing that savings to be derived thereof shall be utilized for water expansion services. But this is not enough.

Water is the most fundamental of all human needs. Water supply is a primary concern and responsibility of the government. Local water districts are the conduits of the government in undertaking such great responsibility. They should be given full support in handling this most essential function of government.

In view of the foregoing considerations, amendments to Republic Act No. 7656 is called for to include local water districts among those exempted from remitting 50% of their annual net earnings to the National Government.

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

(TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III

Senator

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

SECTION 1. Water districts shall be exempted from the provisions of R.A. 7656 requiring government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) to remit 50% of their annual net earnings to the National Government, *Provided*, That the amount supposed to be remitted, is utilized by the water district concerned, for the continuing expansions and improvement of its system.

SECTION 2. All unpaid remittances to the National Government or any portion thereof due from local water districts for the period starting August 15, 1996 until the effectivity of this Act, are hereby condoned.

 SECTION 3. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,