

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

20 FEB 18 P 6:58

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P.S. RES. NO. 329

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NATIONAL WATER PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WATER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND TO ENSURE THAT A WATER CRISIS IS AVERTED

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations, water is not only the most basic resource but also the most essential.¹ Accordingly, water serves as the center of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, energy, agriculture/food production, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself;²

WHEREAS, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) reported that water resources in Asia and the Pacific are under increasing pressure from various factors such as population growth, urbanization, and pollution;³

WHEREAS, the Commission on Population and Development projected that the Philippine population will grow to 108.7 million by July 2020, and noted that even though the population growth rate declined to 1.52% from 2015 to 2019 compared to 1.73% between 2010 to 2015, the Philippines still has one of the highest population growth rates in the ASEAN region;⁴

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/zhc/detail-events/en/c/231215/> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

² United Nations. (2019). *Water*. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/water/index.html> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

³ Asian Development Bank. (2015). *Water: 12 Things to Know*. Retrieved from <https://www.adb.org/news/features/12-things-know-about-water> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

⁴ Commission on Population and Development. (2019). Retrieved from <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1032129> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

WHEREAS, the Philippines, with 145 cities, 1,489 municipalities, and 42,045 barangays,⁵ with more than half (51.2%) of its population residing in urban areas,⁶ is one of the fastest urbanizing countries in East Asia and the Pacific;⁷

WHEREAS, studies have shown that insufficient water supply impacts health by causing acute infectious diarrhea, repeat or chronic diarrhea episodes, and non-diarrheal disease, and by limiting productivity and the maintenance of personal hygiene;⁸

WHEREAS, in 2016, one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the Philippines was acute watery diarrhea, claiming over 139,000 lives;⁹

WHEREAS, a Working Paper from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development affirmed that at the local scale and in the short term, water scarcity can have a huge economic impact, which include power outages, retirement of irrigated crop land, and unemployment;¹⁰

WHEREAS, the recent water service interruptions which affected Metro Manila and its nearby provinces in March 2019 and then again on October to November 2019 reportedly caused public hospitals in affected areas to turn away patients with less urgent cases, while business establishments have closed some of their toilets,¹¹ and indicated that not even the country's capital is a safe haven for water supply;

WHEREAS, the ADB, in its 2013 and 2016 Outlook Reports, warned of a looming water crisis in the Philippines and 48 other countries that are in varying stages of "water insecurity";¹²

⁵ Regional and Provincial Summary - Number of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities and Barangays as of 30 June 2019. Retrieved from <https://dilg.gov.ph/facts-and-figures/Regional-and-Provincial-Summary-Number-of-Provinces-Cities-Municipalities-and-Barangays-as-of-30-June-2019/32> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

⁶ Valencia, Czeriza. (2019). *Over half of population now residing in urban areas*. Philippine Star. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/03/25/1904261/over-half-population-now-residing-urban-areas> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

⁷ Baker, J and Watanabe, M. (2017). *Unlocking the Philippines' urbanization potential*. World Bank Blogs. Retrieved from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/unlocking-the-philippines-urbanization-potential#> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

⁸ Hunter PR, MacDonald AM, and Carter RC. (2010). *Water Supply and Health*. PLoS Med 7(11): e1000361. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1000361>

⁹ World Health Organization. (2019). *Water shortage in the Philippines threatens sustainable development and health*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/water-shortage-in-the-philippines-threatens-sustainable-development-and-health> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

¹⁰ Hertel, TW and Liu, J. (2016). *Implications of water scarcity for economic growth – Environment Working Paper No. 109*. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Environment. Retrieved from <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/5jlssl611r32-en.pdf?expires=1579515370&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=2A3FB628492FF128055BAB995D4B9366> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

¹¹ Yap, C. and Calanzo, A. (2019). *The Worst Water Crisis in Nearly a Decade Hits Manila. Here's Why*. Bloomberg. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-18/worst-water-crisis-in-decade-hits-philippine-capital-here-s-why> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

¹² Asian Development Bank. (2013 and 2016). *Asian Water Development Outlook 2013 and 2016*. Retrieved from <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30190/asian-water-development-outlook-2013.pdf> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020). <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/189411/awdo-2016.pdf> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

WHEREAS, there is a need to closely monitor the national water programs, activities, and projects being implemented and undertaken by the government to demand not only its prioritization but also its timeliness and effectivity in recognition of the people's Constitutional right to health and to a balanced and healthful ecology. This is especially more so considering that Angat Dam has not reached its ideal level of 212 meters, with only 202.55 meters elevation level as of February 7, 2020;¹³

WHEREAS, The President's Mid-Term Report to the People stated that the government is developing alternative water sources to prevent water shortage in Metro Manila and address the growing demand and lack of water supply in the country;¹⁴

WHEREAS, the President also reported that the government has set the implementation of water projects into full speed in pursuance of the Build, Build, Build Program and to reach the target of 95.9% water supply coverage throughout the country by 2022;¹⁵

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior and Local Government implements the Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig Para sa Lahat Program, which provides potable water supply systems to waterless municipalities, barangays, health centers, and resettlement sites, and the Assistance to Municipalities-Water Supply Program, which provides financial subsidy to municipalities for the implementation of priority programs and projects, including water supply projects;¹⁶

WHEREAS, for clean water, the priority activities of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are the following: (1) monitoring of the compliance of firms/industries, (2) conduct of classification of water bodies, and (3) designation of Water Management Quality Areas (WMQA);¹⁷

WHEREAS, some of the accomplished, ongoing, and pipelined projects of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System include (1) the Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project (BBWSP), (2) the New Centennial Water Supply-Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS-KDP), (3) the Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project (AWTIP), (4) the Ipo Dam 3 Project, and (5) the Ipo-La Mesa Dam Link Project;¹⁸

¹³ For daily elevation levels, see, <http://mwss.gov.ph/water-elevation/> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020). See also, Lazaro, Ramon Efren (January 2020). *Angat Dam's water level rises amid monsoon rains*. Philippine Star. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/01/02/1981373/angat-dams-water-level-rises-amid-monsoon-rains> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

¹⁴ The President's Mid-Term Report to the People 2016-2019

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (2019). *Intensified Environmental Protection: Clean Water*. Retrieved from <https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/priority-programs/clean-water-program> (date last accessed: February 17, 2020).

¹⁸ Ibid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, directing the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the national water programs, activities, and projects being implemented by the government to ensure adequate supply of water throughout the country and to ensure that a water crisis is averted.

Adopted,


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA