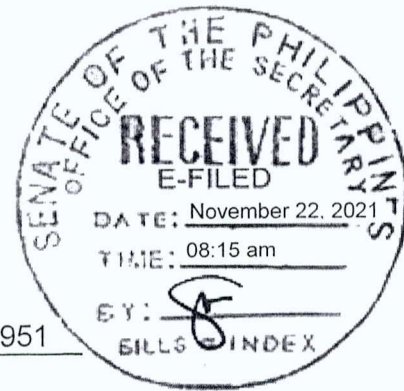


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 951

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO SUPPORT THE OPPOSITION OF FARMERS, THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA), AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF DOLORES AND TIAONG, QUEZON TO THE LUMBO SPRING BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT DUE TO ITS CRITICAL IMPACT ON QUEZON PROVINCE'S WATER SUPPLY AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S THRUST TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY

WHEREAS, on 18 November 2020, the San Pablo City Water District (SPCWD) and Dolores Water District (DWD) issued a Notice of Award for the development of the Lumbo Spring Bulk Water Supply Project located in Dolores, Quezon to the Consortium of Udenna Water Integrated, Inc., Inclam, S.A., and Optimus Engineering and Construction through a public-private partnership (PPP) scheme;

WHEREAS, the P103-million Project will draw for a period of 25 years 12 million liters of water daily from the Lumbo Spring in Dolores, Quezon, 10 million liters of which will be diverted to users from another city, San Pablo, Laguna. Only 2 million liters of water shall be for the use of the municipality of Dolores, Quezon;

WHEREAS, the Project was met by strong opposition from farmers, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and local governments of Dolores and Tiaong, Quezon due to the expected adverse effects of the Project to their water supply and their livelihood;

WHEREAS, NIA Region IV-A said the Project will directly affect Lagnas River, which is one of the tributaries of Lumbo Spring. The Lagnas River Irrigation System currently serves 7 irrigators' associations with a total rice area of 696 hectares and 388 farmer-beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, NIA also said, "There is a clear threat of irrigation water shortage due to the increasing number of water users both for domestic and agricultural use," and "The SPCWD-DWD proposed Project and the continuous decrease of water discharge will jeopardize the government's thrust towards food security and will decrease farmers' potential income";

WHEREAS, on 09 December 2020, the Sangguniang Bayan of Dolores, Quezon approved Resolution No. 174-2020 expressing its strong opposition to the water supply agreement between the Dolores Water District (DWD) and San Pablo City Water District (SPCWD). In the resolution, the Sangguniang Bayan called Lumbo Spring "a promising source of water" in Dolores and the extraction of 10,000 cubic meters of water daily for the SPCWD "truly disadvantageous to the people of Dolores, Quezon";

WHEREAS, in a statement on 15 May 2021, the local government of Tiaong, Quezon expressed its concern over the proposed Lumbo Spring extraction activities of SPCWD

and DWD and said, "With the proposed further extraction on one of the springs (Lumbo) that provides water for our municipality, farmers are gravely concerned about how this negatively impacts their livelihoods and the food production in the region";

WHEREAS, the local government of Tiaong also noted that the "City of San Pablo is rich in bodies of water that its local government can use for domestic purposes of its constituents" and which the SPCWD and DWD can use to meet their requirements "without negatively impacting historical downstream users of the Lumbo Spring";

WHEREAS, according to the Mamamayan Para sa Kapakanan ng Kalikasan ng Bukal ng Lumbo (Mapakalikasan), the Project "will gravely affect the water supply and irrigation for rice fields around Quezon province, and will only benefit a few sectors at the expense of people living in downstream communities." They also claim that no public consultations were conducted with downstream users, and that there are ongoing construction and clearing activities even in the absence of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR-EMB and the required permits from local governments;

WHEREAS, in view of the expected adverse impact of the Project on the water supply and livelihood of the Province of Quezon, it is imperative that environmental laws are strictly observed and that the required local permits are obtained. It is also crucial to conduct public consultations with all affected stakeholders to discuss issues and concerns on the Project before any extraction activities are conducted, to protect the welfare of constituents who depend on the water from the spring for domestic and agricultural use;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to express the sense of the Senate to support the opposition of farmers, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and the local governments of Dolores and Tiaong, Quezon to the Lumbo Spring Bulk Water Supply Project due to its critical impact on Quezon Province's water supply and the national government's thrust towards food security.

Adopted,



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN