

'22 JUL -7 P4 :40

SENATE

S.B. No. 185

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THE WATER RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY,**  
**DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*" Access to clean water is a basic human right. It is crucial in the sustenance of man and is used in almost every industry such as in irrigation, power generation, livestock raising, and fisheries, among others.

With the onslaught of COVID-19 pandemic, water, more than ever, proved to be the most essential public utility in promoting health and cleanliness. The cursory and oft-forgotten habit of hand-washing has never been this critical, in certain instances in fact a matter of life and death.

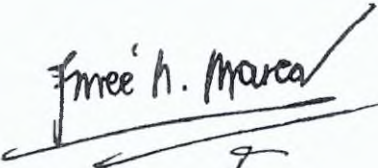
However, many Filipinos still do not have access to clean water. Based on the 2020 Annual Poverty Indicator's Survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), only fifty four percent (54%) of Filipino families' have water piped into their dwellings. Twenty-two percent (22%) obtain water through a protected well. Data also shows that there are still Filipinos who rely on natural sources such as rivers, streams, pond, lake or dam and rain harvesting.

The management of water resources in the country used to be an exclusive function of the government through the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its predecessors. Many laws have since been promulgated to address the water crisis, including the enactment of Republic Act No. 8041 or the "'National Water Crisis Act of 1995' which recognized the need for the government to address the nationwide water management problem.

In March 1996, Executive Order No. 311 was issued by President Fidel V. Ramos, encouraging the private sector's participation in the operation and facilities of the MWSS. As a result, the institutional arrangements in the Philippines' water sector have become exceedingly complicated, with overlapping functions of over 30 national government offices, local water boards and privatized water utility operators.

Further, the recent spate of *"man-made"* flooding disasters has made the consolidation of these entities into a single coherent and comprehensive Water Resources and Management Authority urgent and critical. This bill seeks to finally establish the Authority as the sole government unit in charge of managing, integrating, and unifying policies pertaining to the use, distribution, and management of water resources in the country.

In light of this, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



IMEE R. MARCOS

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**CREATING THE WATER RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY,**  
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**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**CHAPTER I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Water Resources and Management Authority Act.*"

**SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the provision of safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply and improved sanitation services, while maintaining the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of the country's water resources and ecological balance.

**SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- (a) *Authority* refers to the Water Resources and Management Authority;
- (b) *Flood Control* refers to methods, acts and protocols to be observed in order to prevent and reduce the detrimental and catastrophic effects of flood waters which include sediment-laden or turbid flows, hyper-concentrated flows or debris flows;
- (c) *Flood Risk Management (FRM)* refers to such acts of defining and determining the appropriate methods, acts and protocols aimed at preventing and reducing the risk of incurring loss of both life and property due to flood waters. Flood risk management consists of a cycle of prevention, mitigation, adaptation, preparedness and early warning, and, finally response and recovery. The elements of FRM include: integrating land-use planning, coastal zone

1 management into water management; adopting a holistic approach so that FRM  
2 is part of wider risk or multi-hazard management (earthquake, landslides, storm  
3 surge, etc.); managing risk and uncertainty as a whole so it is not only  
4 hydrological uncertainties but also social, economic and political uncertainties in  
5 view of the human behavior and cultural dimensions of FRM;

6 (d) *Host agency* refers to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST),  
7 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Information and  
8 Communications Technology (DICT)/ Department of Public Works and Highways  
9 (DPWH), Department of Agriculture (DA) or other national government agency,  
10 local government unit, or public academic institution that provides programs,  
11 benefits and incentives for those who will be able to develop a new technology  
12 or innovate an existing one that will be beneficial to the management of water  
13 resources;

14 (e) *Infrastructure and public works* as used in this Act should be read to apply only  
15 to wholly or primarily water-related projects and shall not be read to incorporate  
16 projects which would not otherwise fall within the purview of the objectives,  
17 power and duties of the Department;

18 (f) *IWRM* refers to the Integrated Water Resource Management or to a systematic,  
19 collaborative and multi-stakeholder process, which promotes the coordinated  
20 development and management of water, land and related resources within  
21 geophysical boundaries in order to maximize the resultant economic and social  
22 welfare in an equitable manner and without compromising the sustainability of  
23 vital ecosystems;

24 (g) *Levels of water supply service* shall mean as follows:

25 Level I (*point source*) - a protected well or a developed spring with an outlet but  
26 without any distribution system, generally adaptable for rural and upland areas  
27 where the houses are thinly scattered. A Level 1 facility usually serves an average  
28 of 15 households;

29 Level II (*communal faucet system or stand posts*) - a system composed of a  
30 water source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network, and communal faucets.  
31 Usually, one faucet serves 4 to 6 households. Generally suitable for rural and  
32 urban fringe areas where houses are clustered densely to justify a simple piped  
33 system;

34 Level III (*waterworks system or Individual house connections*) - a system with a  
35 water source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network and household taps. This  
36 is generally suited for densely populated urban areas;

37 (h) *LGU* refers to Local Government Unit or to the territorial and political subdivisions  
38 of the Philippines as defined under the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, which  
39 includes provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays;

- 1 (i) *NDRRMC* refers to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council;
- 2 (j) *PDF* refers to the country's medium-term development called the Philippine  
3 Development Plan;
- 4 (k) *RBO* refers to multi-stakeholder River Basin Organization or to organizations  
5 which plan, coordinate and monitor activities within a river basin cluster;
- 6 (l) *Sanitation* refers to sewage, sanitation and septage management;
- 7 (m) *Sediment* management refers to control of sediment erosion and deposition in  
8 rivers, reservoirs and coastal zones through non-structural and structural  
9 measures and control works;
- 10 (n) *SDG* refers to the United Nation's sustainable development goals;
- 11 (o) *Septage* refers to sludge produced on individual onsite wastewater disposal  
12 systems, principally septic tanks and cesspools;
- 13 (p) *Sewage* refers to water-carried waste in solution or suspension including sanitary  
14 waste (waste products of normal living), commercial waste, industrial waste,  
15 agricultural waste and surface runoff conveyed by a sewerage system for  
16 treatment or disposal. For purpose of this Act, the definition of septage shall be  
17 included in the use of sewage;
- 18 (q) *Sewerage* refers to any system or network of sanitary pipelines, ditches, channels  
19 or conduits including pumping stations, lift stations and force mains, service  
20 connections including other constructions, devices or appliances appurtenant  
21 thereof, which includes the collection, sanitary piping transport, pumping and  
22 treatment of water-borne human or animal waste removed from residences,  
23 buildings, institutions and industrial and commercial establishments to point of  
24 sewage treatment plant disposal;
- 25 (r) *Sewers* refer to pipes or such other works or structures which are built and  
26 constructed to treat, carry, transport and dispose sewage;
- 27 (s) *Social inclusion* refers to the process of improving the terms for disadvantaged  
28 individuals and groups to take part in society;
- 29 (t) *Tariffs* refer to such amounts which may be charged by licensees of water supply  
30 and/or sanitation services for their services based on principles, standards and  
31 guidelines established by the Department;
- 32 (u) *Water Demand Management (WDM)* refers to any method - whether technical,  
33 economic, administrative, financial, or social -that will accomplish one (or more)  
34 of the following things: (1) reduce the quantity or quality of water required to  
35 accomplish a specific task (2) adjust the nature of the task or the way it is  
36 undertaken so that it can be accomplished with less water or with lower quality  
37 water (3) reduce the loss in quantity or quality of water as it flows from source

1 through use to disposal (4) shift the timing of use from peak to off-peak periods  
2 (5) increase the ability of the water system to continue to serve society during  
3 times when water is In short supply;

4 (v) *Water Resources Regional Offices (WRROs)* refer to the field office of the  
5 Department which are to be established In accordance with the Identified water  
6 resources regions in the country;

7 (w) *Water Service Providers (WSPs)* refer to the water districts, any LGU-run water  
8 utility, BWSA, RWSA, cooperatives and private sector who provides water supply  
9 services to any given area;

10 (x) *Water supply service* refers to any activity comprising Levels I, II and III water  
11 supply including bulk suppliers, suppliers to subdivisions and other water service  
12 providers.

13  
14 **CHAPTER II**  
15 **ORGANIZATION**

16 **SEC. 4.** *Water Resources and Management Authority.*-There is hereby created  
17 and established the "*Water Resources and Management Authority*" hereinafter  
18 referred to as the "*Authority*" which shall be organized within one hundred twenty  
19 (120) days after the effectivity of this Act. It shall be the primary agency responsible  
20 for the comprehensive and integrated water resources development and management  
21 of the Philippines. It shall exercise such powers and functions needed to review, revise,  
22 harmonize and integrate policies and regulations for conservation of water resources  
23 and effective management of water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood  
24 control, storm water/ urban drainage.

25 The Authority shall formulate and be guided by an "*Integrated Water Resources*  
26 *Management (IWRM) Framework*," taking into account climate risks, and ensuring the  
27 sustainability of natural ecosystem functions and services. In managing water  
28 resources, the Authority shall aim to improve water conservation and increase system  
29 efficiencies, and optimize the use of all freshwater in the country including  
30 groundwater, surface water, rainwater, run-offs, floods, storm water and urban  
31 drainage, and treated wastewater to meet various needs.

32 **SEC. 5.** *Powers and Functions.* - The Authority shall have the following powers  
33 and functions:

34 I. Policy-making and Planning

35 (a) Ensure that the IWRM is adopted as the strategic framework for water  
36 management policy-making and planning in the country and coordinate the  
37 implementation, promotion, revision and enhancement of IWRM plans;

- 1 (b) Provide policy direction, strategies, and targets in coordination with other  
2 relevant entities to meet the goals and objectives for water supply and  
3 sanitation, water quality. Irrigation, hydropower, flood control, storm water,  
4 and urban drainage. Such policies shall, among other things, integrate the  
5 issues of water and sanitation, food security, energy, environment and flood  
6 control;
- 7 (c) Formulate and develop policies to promote universal access to safe,  
8 adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply, and improved sanitation  
9 services for all Filipinos;
- 10 (d) Formulate and promulgate rules and regulations for the development, and  
11 optimum utilization of water resources and its administration and  
12 management, including coherent water protocols and operation rules of all  
13 existing and future water infrastructure; and the imposition on fees or  
14 charges as may be deemed necessary by the Authority for water resources  
15 development;
- 16 (e) Develop, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, the National  
17 Water Resources Management Master Plan following the IWRM framework  
18 and building on the 1998 Master Plan Study on Water Resources  
19 Management, the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan and  
20 existing plans of other agencies;
- 21 (f) Conduct continuing hydrologic surveys and studies of the country's  
22 renewable water supply, establish, operate, and maintain observation station  
23 networks with a view towards formulating long-term policies to balance the  
24 sustainability and optimal multiple use of water resources, defining the  
25 hydrologic boundaries of basins of the existing water supply sources and  
26 developing or updating and implementing countrywide comprehensive basin-  
27 wide master plans;
- 28 (g) Establish, operate, and maintain a centralized water resources data center  
29 necessary for the scientific survey and appraisal of surface and ground water  
30 potentials of the country and determine the annual renewable water  
31 available per water resources region;
- 32 (h) Assist and provide the National Economic and Development Authority  
33 (NEDA) secretariat with required data and input from and for the water  
34 sector in the formulation of the country's short-term and long-term strategic  
35 development plans, and actions and recommend the adoption of general  
36 policies and guidelines for water resources development to the NEDA  
37 secretariat;

- 1 (i) Review and approve development plans and programs of any agency within  
2 the context of the National Water Resource Management Master Plan and  
3 overall national plans and program;
- 4 (j) Regularly review regulations prescribed by any government agency  
5 pertaining to water use, exploitation, development, conservation or  
6 protection of waters, water resources, and watershed or basin areas;
- 7 (k) Develop and implement, in coordination with other relevant agencies,  
8 effective codes, standards, benchmarks, and reasonable guidelines to ensure  
9 the safety of all public, and private water structures in the country and assure  
10 efficiency and proper quality in the construction of water, sanitation,  
11 irrigation, hydropower, flood control and drainage infrastructure;
- 12 (l) Review existing guidelines appropriate for Private Sector Participation in the  
13 water sector;
- 14 (m) Effect inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination on all aspects of data  
15 gathering for water resources development planning and direct the  
16 submission of statistics and data on water management;
- 17 (n) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may be necessary  
18 to implement and enforce its powers and functions under this Act; and
- 19 (o) Strengthen and deepen interactions and partnerships among different actors  
20 from the public and private sector, academe, research and development  
21 institutions and communities towards promoting and improving water  
22 management resources.

23 II. Resource Regulation

- 24 (a) Manage the country's water resources to ensure the optimal use thereof for  
25 domestic water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, navigation, flood  
26 control, and recreation, including the enhancement and maintenance of  
27 water quality, conservation of watershed, control of water pollution and  
28 environmental restoration, without compromising the natural ecosystem  
29 functions and services;
- 30 (b) Regulate and control the utilization, abstraction, diversion and development  
31 of water resources, taking into consideration its equitable distribution among  
32 competing demands and determine the standards of beneficial and priority  
33 uses of water in times of crisis and national emergencies;
- 34 (c) Determine, adjudicate, and grant water rights; and
- 35 (d) Formulate and enforce rules and regulations for the development and  
36 optimum use of water resources and its administration and management,  
37 and implement rules and guidelines for the enforcement of water-related  
38 laws including coherent water protocols, operational rules of all existing and



1 future water Infrastructure and appropriate sanctions to be Imposed for non-  
2 compliance.

3 III. Administration and Management

- 4 (a) Develop guidelines, including rules of partnership among the Authority, field  
5 offices of national government agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders,  
6 facilitate the establishment of multi-stakeholder river basin organizations  
7 (RBOs) per river basin, and monitor, strengthen and support existing RBOs;
- 8 (b) Develop materials for capacity building and training on RBO development  
9 and conduct training and workshops for prospective river basins;
- 10 (c) Authorize its representatives or any deputized agent to enter any property  
11 of public dominion or any private land, building or enclave, whether inhabited  
12 or not, for the purpose of conducting hydrologic surveys and investigations.  
13 including assessing and evaluating the conditions of water facilities installed  
14 and determining compliance with water laws and standards;
- 15 (d) Provide technical assistance to water users including but not limited to  
16 farmers, communities, LGUs and other water service providers (WSP)  
17 whether directly or in coordination with other agencies on all aspects of  
18 integrated water resources management; and
- 19 (e) Deputize agents from other government agencies or Government-Owned  
20 and Controlled Corporations (GOCC's) to assist in the performance of any of  
21 the powers and functions of the Department.

22 IV. Coordination

- 23 (a) Coordinate and integrate water resources development activities of the  
24 country within the context of national plans and policies for social and  
25 economic development;
- 26 (b) Coordinate with other government agencies, universities and private  
27 professional groups for all aspects of data gathering, the conduct of special  
28 studies and research on all related aspects of water resources management  
29 and development such as climate change, environmental quality,  
30 desalination, and the development of operating strategies, procedures, and  
31 protocols with accompanying computerized decision tools for major water  
32 facilities;
- 33 (c) Coordinate with the concerned and relevant agencies engaged in flood  
34 control, flood risk management and drought risk management; and
- 35 (d) Coordinate with LCD's to ensure the Integration of water resources  
36 development plans into their comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs),  
37 Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) or Provincial Physical Framework  
38 and Development Plan (PPFDP).

1           **SEC. 6. Administrator of the Water Resources and Management Authority.** - The  
2 authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Authority and for  
3 the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Administrator of the  
4 Authority, hereinafter referred to as the "*Administrator*", who shall:

- 5 (a) Advise the President on the promulgation of executive or administrative orders,  
6 regulations, proclamations and other Issuances relative to matters under the  
7 jurisdiction of the Authority;
- 8 (b) Establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Authority pursuant to  
9 the President's guidelines;
- 10 (c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out objectives, policies and  
11 functions;
- 12 (d) Exercise supervision and control over all Offices under the Authority;
- 13 (e) Supervise all attached agencies and corporations in accordance with law;
- 14 (f) Represent the Authority in contracts, awards, and other similar activities; and
- 15 (g) Perform such other duties and responsibilities, as may be necessary and provided  
16 by law.

17           No person shall be appointed Administrator unless he or she possesses extensive  
18 knowledge of public administration and has a minimum experience of ten (10) years  
19 in the administration of water, sanitation, irrigation, flood control and drainage  
20 programs preferably in a public agency.

21           **SEC. 7. Office of the Administrator.** - The Office of the Administrator shall be 8  
22 composed of the Administrator and his immediate staff.

23           **SEC. 8. Offices.** -The Authority shall be consisted of five (5) offices, as follows:

- 24           (1) Finance Service;
- 25           (2) Administrative Service;
- 26           (3) Planning and Engineering Services;
- 27           (4) Regulatory and Financial Assistance Services; and
- 28           (5) Operations.

29           **SEC. 9. Organizational Structure.** - The Authority shall be composed of the  
30 following organizational units:

- 31           (a) Authority Proper consisting of the Office of the Administrator, the Internal Audit,  
32 Finance Service, Administrative Service, Planning and Engineering Services,  
33 Regulatory and Financial Assistance Services, and Operations; and

1 (b) Regional Offices, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Administrator,  
2 taking into consideration the existing water resources regions, river basins, and  
3 catchment basins of the country.

4 **SEC. 10. Internal Audit.** -The Internal Audit is hereby created for the purpose  
5 of conducting comprehensive audit of various Authority activities and shall have the  
6 following specific functions:

- 7 (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to management control and  
8 operations audit;
- 9 (b) Conduct management and operations performance audit of activities and units  
10 and determine as to compliance with established objectives, policies, methods  
11 and procedures, government regulations, and contractual obligations of the  
12 Authority;
- 13 (c) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure, assets  
14 management practices, accounting, and other records, reports, and performance  
15 standards of the Authority;
- 16 (d) Analyze and evaluate management deficiencies and assist top management to  
17 solve problems by recommending realistic courses of action; and
- 18 (e) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
19 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

20 **SEC. 11. Finance Services.** - The Finance Services is hereby created to provide  
21 the Authority with coordinated services relating to financial systems and procedures,  
22 budget, cash, accounting, and all financial matters not falling under other Services.  
23 For such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

- 24 (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to the accounting of government  
25 expenditures and receipts, budgeting and cash management, project finances,  
26 and financial systems and procedures;
- 27 (b) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget authorizations, undertake  
28 budget execution, and prepare and submit all appropriate reports to the proper  
29 offices;
- 30 (c) Develop and maintain accounting, financial, and assets management systems,  
31 procedures, and practices in the Authority in accordance with the existing  
32 government accounting and auditing rules and regulations;
- 33 (d) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the Administrator  
34 and, when requested, to government corporations, councils, and boards  
35 attached to the Authority; and
- 36 (e) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
37 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

1           **SEC. 12.** Administrative Services.-The Administrative Service is hereby created  
2 to provide the Authority with services relating to human resources development,  
3 personnel records, facilities maintenance, medical and dental, gender and  
4 development (GAD), security, property and procurement services. For such purposes,  
5 it shall have the following functions:

- 6       (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to Internal administration and  
7       human resources management;
- 8       (b) Prepare and implement an integrated personnel plan that shall include provisions  
9       on merit promotion, performance evaluation, job rotation, suggestions and  
10      incentive awards systems, and health and welfare services;
- 11      (c) Provide services related to human resource training, education, and  
12      development, including manpower, career planning and forecasting and  
13      development of indigenous training materials;
- 14      (d) Prepare and/or Implement GAD plans and budgets and GAD accomplishment  
15      reports;
- 16      (e) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and cost-effective property  
17      procurement system and facilities and coordinate or otherwise interface with  
18      relevant agencies, whether government or private, for the purpose of developing  
19      or upgrading the system;
- 20      (f) Secure and maintain necessary facilities, and develop, establish and maintain an  
21      efficient and effective security system covering, among others, personnel,  
22      physical installations, equipment, documents, and materials, including the  
23      conduct of security Investigations;
- 24      (g) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies for a more efficient  
25      conduct of administrative processes;
- 26      (h) Develop, establish and maintain an efficient records system;
- 27      (i) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to the Authority and Regional  
28      Offices and, when requested, the government agencies and corporations  
29      attached to the Authority; and
- 30      (j) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
31      delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

32           **SEC. 13.** *Planning and Engineering Services.* - The Planning and Engineering  
33 Services is hereby created to provide the Authority with the capability to undertake  
34 infrastructure development planning, programming and implementation. For this  
35 purpose, it shall have the following functions;

- 36      (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to Infrastructure planning and  
37      implementation;

- 1 (b) Formulate strategies and priorities for infrastructure development consistent with  
2 national development objectives and initiate or undertake relevant surveys for  
3 development planning;
- 4 (c) Formulate and implement long-range, medium-term and annual development  
5 plans and programs for Infrastructure, including flood control, water resource  
6 development systems, and other public works projects, including phasing of  
7 implementation and review and integrate land use plans with such water  
8 development plans;
- 9 (d) Identify and implement priority packages for infrastructure development,  
10 including flood control, water resource development systems, and other public  
11 works projects, and undertake or supervise and evaluate the conduct of  
12 feasibility studies and project preparation and implementation thereof;
- 13 (e) Prioritize project implementation and the allocation of funds and other resources  
14 and package project proposals for funding and Implementation;
- 15 (f) Evaluate and appraise all regional interregional infrastructure development plans  
16 and programs as to their feasibility and consistency with approved strategies and  
17 long and medium-term plans;
- 18 (g) Initiate regular Authority-wide planning exercises and act as the secretariat  
19 thereof;
- 20 (h) Gather, analyze, and organize needed statistical data and information;
- 21 (i) Provide technical assistance related to its functions to the other Services and  
22 Regional Offices as needed; and
- 23 (j) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
24 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

25 **SEC. 14. *Regulatory and Financial Assistance Services.*** - The Regulatory and  
26 Financial Assistance Services Is hereby created to provide the Authority with services  
27 on all legal affairs, compliance of attached government corporations, LWDs, RWSAs,  
28 cooperatives, and other associations, including private entitles under contractual or  
29 concession arrangement with them, and other private water service providers on the  
30 established standards, rules and regulations relating to: water quality; infrastructure  
31 and facilities design and construction; equipment, materials and supplies; operations  
32 and maintenance; personnel; organization; accounting; tariffs; and other matters  
33 subject to regulation. It shall also provide the services on the management of the  
34 financial assistance available and granted to LWDs and RWSAs. For this purpose, it  
35 shall have the following functions:

- 36 (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to legal affairs and regulation of  
37 the operation of the attached corporations, LWDs, RWSAs, cooperatives and  
38 other associations;

- 1 (b) Provide legal assistance, when requested, the attached corporations and boards;
- 2 (c) Prepare contracts and legal Instruments, review of administrative charges  
3 against officers and employees of the Authority, members of the top  
4 management of the attached corporations and boards;
- 5 (d) Conduct administrative investigation as well as the review of administrative  
6 charges against officers and employees of the Authority, members of the top  
7 management of the attached corporations and boards;
- 8 (e) Exercise functional jurisdiction over the legal staffs of Regional Offices;
- 9 (f) Establish standards for: water quality; design and construction of facilities;  
10 optimum selection of equipment, materials and supplies; procedures for  
11 operations and maintenance of water and sewer equipment and facilities;  
12 training of personnel; organization; uniform accounting system; tariffs;
- 13 (g) Review all water rates or charges;
- 14 (h) Manage the financial assistance available and granted to LWDs, RWSAs and  
15 other qualified water utilities; and
- 16 (i) Maintain a databank for water quantity and quality of all water resources.  
17 Including ground water and or surface water resources being used by water  
18 utilities, power utilities, sewage facilities, sanitation facilities, and Irrigation  
19 cooperatives and organizations and a databank for relevant Information of all  
20 these organizations as well.

21 **SEC. 15. *Water Resources Regional Offices.*** - The Water Resources Regional  
22 Offices, organized per water resources region shall be responsible for Implementing  
23 the mandates, powers and duties of the Authority at the field level, except for policy-  
24 making which will be vested solely with the Central Office. For this purpose, the duties  
25 and responsibilities of the WRRO shall be as follows:

- 26 (a) Formulate or update and coordinate the river basin master plans for river basins  
27 within its jurisdictions ensuring consistency with the National Water Resources  
28 Management Master Plan;
- 29 (b) Evaluate the planning, design, and work supervision functions of the Authority  
30 for the water infrastructures within the region;
- 31 (c) Ensure the implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules and regulations  
32 regarding the abovementioned Infrastructure as well as public and private  
33 physical structures;
- 34 (d) Provide technical assistance related to the water-related functions of other  
35 agencies within the region especially the local government;

- 1 (e) Coordinate with other departments, agencies, institutions and organizations,  
2 especially local government units within the region in the planning and  
3 implementation of the river basin master plans;
- 4 (f) Conduct continuing consultations with the local communities, take appropriate  
5 measures to make the services responsive to the Central Office and recommend  
6 such appropriate actions as may be necessary; and
- 7 (g) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
8 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

9 **SEC. 16. Regional Director.** - Each Regional Office shall be headed by a Regional  
10 Director who shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the duties  
11 and responsibilities of the Office. He shall also perform such other related duties and  
12 responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Administrator or as may be  
13 required by law.

14 The Regional Director shall be assisted by two (2) Assistant Water Resources  
15 Regional Office Directors who shall exercise supervision respectively over (1) the  
16 planning, project design and evaluation function and (2) the construction,  
17 maintenance, and works supervision functions in the region.

18 **SEC. 17. Comptrollership and Financial Management Service.** - The  
19 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service is hereby created to provide the  
20 Authority with coordinated services relating to financial systems and procedures,  
21 budget, cash, accounting and all financial housekeeping matters. For such purposes,  
22 it shall have the following functions:

- 23 (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to the accounting of government  
24 expenditures and receipts, budgeting and cash management, project finances and  
25 financial systems and procedures;
- 26 (b) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget authorizations, undertake  
27 budget execution, and prepare and submit all appropriate reports to the proper  
28 offices;
- 29 (c) Develop and maintain accounting, financial and assets management systems,  
30 procedures and practices in the Authority;
- 31 (d) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure, assets  
32 management practices, accounting, and other records, reports, ad performance  
33 standards such as budgets and standard costs of the Authority, bureaus, and  
34 regional offices;
- 35 (e) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the Authority and,  
36 when requested, to government corporations and councils attached to the  
37 Authority; and

1 (f) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
2 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

3 **SEC. 18. Resource Regulation Service.** - The Resource Regulatory Service is  
4 hereby created to provide the Authority with services on resource regulation of all  
5 water-related services and activities. For such purposes, it shall have the following  
6 functions:

- 7 (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to resource regulations;
- 8 (b) Determine, grant and regulate water rights for the appropriate, optimal and  
9 sustainable use of surface and ground water;
- 10 (c) Determine, evaluate and grant waterworks and sewerage franchises;
- 11 (d) Investigate violations of the water rights and the Water Code and impose the  
12 appropriate sanctions in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations as  
13 well as future rules and regulations which the Authority will promulgate;
- 14 (e) Adjudicate water use conflicts; and
- 15 (f) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
16 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by the law.

17 **SEC. 19. Internal Audit Office.** - The Internal Audit Office is hereby created for  
18 the purpose of conducting comprehensive audit of various activities of the Authority  
19 and will report directly to the Administrator. Specifically, It shall have the following  
20 functions:

- 21 (a) Advise the Administrator on all matters relating to management control and  
22 operations audit;
- 23 (b) Conduct management and operations performance audit of activities and units  
24 and determine as to the degree of compliance with established objectives, policies,  
25 standards, methods and procedures, government regulations and contractual  
26 obligations of the Authority;
- 27 (c) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure, assets  
28 management practices, accounting and other records, and performance standards  
29 (such as budgets and standard costs) of the Authority, Divisions, and Regional  
30 Offices;
- 31 (d) Analyze and evaluate management deficiencies and assist top management to  
32 solve problems by recommending realistic courses of action; and
- 33 (e) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
34 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

35 **SEC. 20. Public Affairs Office.** -The Public Affairs Office is hereby created for the  
36 purpose of enhancing government relations with all stakeholders including the media.



1 It shall ensure that women, men, older people and people with disabilities will be  
2 consulted, organized and can take active part in all aspects of water resources  
3 development and management activities. The office will also lead the planning and  
4 organizing of the special events of the Authority. For such purposes, it shall have the  
5 following functions:

6 (A) Public Awareness

- 7 (a) Advise the Administrator on matters pertaining to public affairs services;
- 8 (b) Develop and supervise the implementation of communications programs to  
9 have relevant policies, programs and plans of the Authority understood by  
10 the public;
- 11 (c) Produce and supervise the dissemination of communication materials in  
12 line with the priorities of the Authority and the national government public  
13 information programs;
- 14 (d) Conduct public opinion and attitude surveys to identify the interests and  
15 concerns of key groups served by the Authority;
- 16 (e) Establish editorial policies on print and broadcast media;
- 17 (f) Establish and maintain linkages with the tri-media and presence In social  
18 media;
- 19 (g) Coordinate the conduct of interviews and news conferences;
- 20 (h) Act as spokesperson for the Authority;
- 21 (i) Coordinate with various departments, concerned government agencies, tri-  
22 media and other stakeholders on matters related to the above-enumerated  
23 functions;
- 24 (j) Coordinate with the appropriate national government agencies tasked with  
25 public information affairs;

26 (B) Promoting Participation

- 27 (a) Conduct public consultations and discussions;
- 28 (b) Develop and disseminate relevant and appropriate materials and programs  
29 for public Information and education, as well as advocacy campaign;
- 30 (c) Conduct seminars and workshops involving the LCDs and the general public  
31 on current water issues and problems;
- 32 (d) Conduct capability building seminars of various stakeholders to promote  
33 meaningful participation in the Authority's policy making, planning,  
34 development and Implementation of various programs and projects.

35 (C) Special Events

- 1 (a) Coordinate the organization and promotion of special events and water  
2 exhibits;
- 3 (b) Act as the focal point for all water related events;
- 4 (c) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned  
5 or delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

6 **SEC. 21. *Pollution Adjudication Board.*** - There is hereby created a Pollution  
7 Adjudication Board under the Authority. The Board shall be composed of the  
8 Administrator as Chairman, two (2) Undersecretaries as may be designated by the  
9 Secretary, the Director of Water Quality Management Bureau and three (3) other  
10 representatives from other stakeholders to be designated by the Administrator as  
11 members. The Board shall assume the powers and functions of the  
12 Commission/Commissioners of the National Pollution Control Commission with respect  
13 to the adjudication of water pollution cases under Republic Act No. 3931, Presidential  
14 Decree 984, particularly with respect to Section 6 letters e, f, g, j, k and p of the P.D.  
15 984 and RA 9275. The Bureau of Water Quality Management shall serve as the  
16 Secretariat of the Board. These powers and functions may be delegated to the field  
17 officers of the Authority in accordance with rules and regulations to be promulgated  
18 by the Board.

19 **SEC. 22. *Divisions.*** - Each Division shall be headed by a Director who shall be  
20 responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the functions of the Division  
21 concerned. The Director shall be assisted by one (1) Assistant Director.

22 **SEC. 23. *Division of Flood Control and Drainage.*** - The Division of Flood Control  
23 and Drainage is hereby created to plan and design flood control and drainage  
24 structures and facilities in accordance with technical standards, guidelines and  
25 manuals. For this purpose, it shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 26 (a) Formulate policy, strategies and programs on flood risk management in the  
27 context of integrated flood management (IFM) which integrates water, land,  
28 coastal zone and multi-hazard management. In integrating land-use planning  
29 and water management, the Authority should harmonize and synthesize plans to  
30 enable the sharing of information between land-use planning and water  
31 management authorities. In Integrating hazard management, a holistic approach  
32 should be adopted so that IFM should be part of a wider risk or multi-hazard  
33 management system (e.g., earthquake, landslides, fire, tsunami, etc.);
- 34 (b) Integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction and management in policies  
35 and plans;
- 36 (c) Prepare master plans of flood management and drainage in river basins in  
37 coordination with the concerned water resources region and river basin  
38 organizations;

- 1 (d) Prepare master plans of urban drainage in cities/municipalities;
- 2 (e) Prepare feasibility studies of recommended measures in the master plans;
- 3 (f) Plan and design structural measures for flood control and drainage;
- 4 (g) Implement and/or collaborate with concerned agencies on the non-structural
- 5 measures;
- 6 (h) Patrol and Investigate rivers including the monitoring of stream flows;
- 7 (i) Conduct post-disaster investigation and evaluation and damage assessment of
- 8 flood infrastructures after extreme events;
- 9 (j) Conduct research and development on water and sediment-related disasters;
- 10 (k) Develop design guidelines, criteria and standards on flood control and drainage
- 11 structures;
- 12 (l) Provide technical assistance to other agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders;
- 13 (m) Advise the Secretary on declaring flood control areas and recommend guidelines
- 14 for flood plain management plans In these areas in coordination with the
- 15 proposed Department of Disaster Resiliency; and
- 16 (n) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or
- 17 delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

18 **SEC. 24.** *Division of Water Quality Management.* - The Division of Water Quality  
19 Management is hereby created to supervise and control over all aspects of water  
20 quality management to ensure the sustainability of the country's water resources and  
21 the protection of the environment. It should take into account proper and integrated  
22 treatment of freshwater and wastewater within the whole process. For this purpose,  
23 it shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 24 (a) Establish water quality guidelines for freshwater and coastal/marine waters as
- 25 basis for classifying water bodies in the country. Specifically, develop water
- 26 quality indices or composite metrics to measure of the quality status and health
- 27 of natural water bodies in relation to ecological integrity and function.
- 28 (b) Establish effluent standards for point sources of pollution;
- 29 (c) Establish internationally accepted procedures for sampling and analysis;
- 30 (d) Prepare an integrated water quality management framework;
- 31 (e) Prepare 10-year water quality management plans for each water quality
- 32 management area as part of the River Basin Master Plans and in support of the
- 33 National Water Resources Management Master Plan;
- 34 (f) Classify groundwater sources and prepare a national groundwater vulnerability
- 35 map;

- 1 (g) Classify or reclassify all water bodies according to their beneficial usages using  
2 the established water quality guidelines established;
- 3 (h) Issue permits, clearances and similar instruments pursuant to the Clean Water  
4 Act of 2004;
- 5 (i) Collect the wastewater discharge (EUF) fees for all permittees;
- 6 (j) Monitor the compliance of water discharge permittees with the effluent  
7 standards;
- 8 (k) Regularly monitor the water quality of major water bodies in the country and  
9 analyze the data to identify possible sources of pollution;
- 10 (l) Issue notices of violations and/or cease and desist orders for those found in  
11 violation;
- 12 (m) File the needed cases against violators with the Pollution Adjudication Board;
- 13 (n) Serve as secretariat of the PAB; and
- 14 (o) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or  
15 delegated by the Administrator or as may be required by law.

16

17 **CHAPTER III**

18 **INNOVATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGY**

19 **SEC. 25.** *General Registration and Operational Benefits and Incentives.* - Host  
20 agencies shall be authorized to provide the following benefits and incentives to who  
21 will be able to develop a new technology or innovate an existing one that will be  
22 beneficial to the conservation, preservation, and management of water resources:

- 23 (a) Full or partial subsidy for the registration and cost in the application and  
24 processing of permits and certificates required for the business registration and  
25 operation of an enterprise with the appropriate local or national government  
26 agencies;
- 27 (b) Endorsement of the host agency for the expedited or prioritized processing of  
28 applications with other government agency;
- 29 (c) Full or partial subsidy for the use of facilities, office space, equipment, and/or  
30 services provided by government or private enterprises or institutions;
- 31 (d) Full or partial subsidy in the use of repurposed government spaces and facilities  
32 of the host agency as the registered business address; and
- 33 (e) Grants-in-aid (GIA) for research, development, training, and expansion  
34 projects.



1 (5) The Authority shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction  
2 Management Council (NDRRMC) to ensure that its plans and designs for flood  
3 control, flood risk management and drought risk management are aligned with  
4 the objectives and plans of the Authority; and

5 (6) The Authority shall absorb the responsibility from the Department of Interior and  
6 Local Government (DILG) on the management and operation of water supply  
7 systems of local government units.

8 **SEC. 28. *Transfer of Rights and Obligations.*** - The Authority shall, by virtue of  
9 this Act, be subrogated to all the rights and assume all the obligations of the relevant  
10 parts of any government agency or unit whose powers and duties have been  
11 transferred to the Authority, including the DPWH, National Irrigation Administration  
12 (NIA), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Metropolitan Waterworks and  
13 Sewerage System (MWSS), River Basin Control Office, Manila Bay Coordinating Office,  
14 Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), Metro Manila Development Authority  
15 (MMDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of  
16 Interior and Local Government (DILG), Laguna Lake Development Authority, Pasig  
17 River Rehabilitation Commission, the Water Resources Regional Offices, and all other  
18 offices whose powers are transferred by this Act.

19 The transfer of powers and functions as provided in Sec. 18 of this Act, as may  
20 be applicable, and its attached agencies thereto, shall take effect within one hundred  
21 eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act. The foregoing transfer of powers  
22 and functions shall include all applicable funds, personnel, records, property, and  
23 equipment, as may be necessary. All offices shall continue to function under their  
24 present mandates until transition is effected.

25 All rights and obligations of said government agencies are hereby transferred to  
26 and assumed by the Authority and shall be acted upon in accordance with the rules  
27 and regulations of the Commission on Audit and other pertinent laws, rules, and  
28 regulations.

29 **SEC. 29. *Separation from Service.*** - Employees separated from government  
30 service as a result of this Act shall be entitled to the benefits that they may receive  
31 under existing laws, rules, and regulations.

32 **SEC. 30. *Source of Fund.*** - The sum of two billion pesos (PhP 2,000,000,000.00)  
33 shall be set aside from available funds of the National Treasury, and is hereby  
34 appropriated and authorized to be released for the organization of the Authority and  
35 its initial operations. Thereafter, funds sufficient to fully carry out the objectives,  
36 powers, and functions of the Authority shall be appropriated every fiscal year in the  
37 General Appropriations Act.

1           The Authority shall submit its annual budget, which shall include, among others,  
2 detailed information on the compensation and benefits received by their employees  
3 to the Office of the President for approval.

4           **SEC. 31. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
5 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
6 remain in force and effect.

7           **SEC. 32. *Repealing Clause.*** - All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and  
8 regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of  
9 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

10           **SEC. 33. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
11 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of  
12 general circulation in the Philippines.

13  
*Approved,*