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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 608

INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
PUBLIC WORKS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM AND ENERGY
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE ECONOMIC USE AND ALLOCATION OF WATER RESOURCES
BETWEEN EQUALLY RELEVANT SECTORS BY
PARTICULARLY LOOKING INTO THE ANGAT DAM WATER PROJECT

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article XII on National Economy and Patrimony of the Constitution expressly provides that the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XII on National Economy and Patrimony of the Constitution expressly provides, inter alia, that all waters of the Philippines belong to the State;

WHEREAS, the legal framework which defines and sets out economic policies in the use of water resources are severely fragmented, spread across different government tiers and a number of national government agencies due to the enactment of several regulatory laws which includes notably, the MWSS Law, the Provincial Water Utilities Act, the Water Code of the Philippines, the NWRB Act, the Local Government Code, among others.

WHEREAS, as a result of this fragmentation, there is lack of a clear, coherent policy and a rational regulative framework on the use and allocation of our country's scant water resources and reservoirs which have further exacerbated the debate among governmental and private institutions on the issue of water allocation, specifically on the prioritization of proprietary rights over the use of water from dams and other water reservoirs especially between equally deserving sectors;

WHEREAS, it can not be denied that the economic use and allocation of water resources has a direct bearing on national economic development because such use

may be appropriated for various equally relevant sectoral purposes like domestic and industrial consumption, agricultural irrigation, power generation, tourism, sanitation, environment protection, among others;

WHEREAS, to understand further the complexity of the economic use and allocation of water resources, a specific inquiry into the Angat River Dam System in San Rafael, Bulacan is worthwhile because it illustrates clearly the competition between various sectors in the use of a major national water source, the Angat River.

WHEREAS, water from the Angat Dam is used for the following purposes: irrigation, domestic water supply, power, and tourism which concerns the following government agencies: Metropolitan Water Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Power Corporation (NPC), and the Department of Tourism (DOT), respectively;

WHEREAS, per NIA reports, the abovementioned government agencies have the following respective water rights allocation (in Cubic Meter per Second [cms]):

Irrigation (National Irrigation Administration)	-	36 cms
Power (NPC)	-	36 cms
Domestic Water (MWSS & concessionaires)	-	22 cms
Tourism & Environmental	-	2 cms

WHEREAS, the Angat Dam irrigation network covers a total land area of 31,485 hectares and serves at least 28,000 farmer-beneficiaries and their families in the following municipalities of Bulacan (Bustos, Bocaue, Pandi, Balagtas, Plaridel, Guiguinto, Malolos City, Bulacan, Paombong, Calumpit, San Ildefonso, San Rafael, Baliwag, Pulilan, Angat and Hagonoy) and Pampanga (Candaba, San Luis, Apalit and San Simon). Further, irrigation enables the farmer-beneficiaries of Angat Dam to produce an additional yield of 120 cavans per hectare for two (2) cropping seasons as against a normal yield of 40 cavans per hectare on a rainfed (unirrigated) season. Cumulatively, the average irrigated area during the wet and dry seasons has an estimated yield of 3.7 Million cavans for one (1) year or an equivalent value of about PhP1.674 Billion;

WHEREAS, an estimated 97% of the water supply consumption of Metro Manila or an average of 4,000 million liters per day comes from the Angat dam. However, the NIA contends that the MWSS, in actual practice, draws 53 to 54 cms annually for domestic consumption instead of the 22 cms allocated for domestic water consumption thus directly affecting the livelihood opportunities and rice harvests of these farmers;

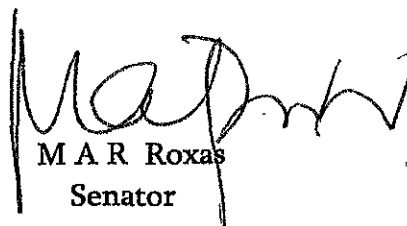
WHEREAS, despite the economic benefits of irrigated water to the farmer-beneficiaries of Angat River, their water allocation of 36 cms is conditional in that if the water level at the Angat dam reaches below 200 meters, the NIA gets zero (0) allocation, hence, resulting, to no delivery of irrigated water supply for this sector. Worse, if the water level reaches 215 meters during the rainy season, water from the

Angat reservoir is automatically released to the Bustos dam which causes flood, inundation and irreparable damages of rice paddies in the following areas: Bulacan – Pulilan, Calumpit, Bulacan, Hagonoy, and Paombong; Pampanga – San Luis, Candaba, Apalit, and San Simon;

WHEREAS, during an informal dialogue with the AMRIS (Angat-Maasim River Irrigation System) Confederation of Farmers Irrigators Association, an alliance of 98 Irrigators' Associations in Bulacan, held in Paombong, Bulacan on 16 December 2006, the farmer-beneficiaries underscored the need of a clear, coherent legal framework that will establish a more equitable and predictable water rights allocation system nationwide since the same problem of unequal sharing of water resources between relevant sectors definitely occurs in other regions of the country;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate direct the Committees on Economic Affairs, Public Works, Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Tourism and Economic Affairs to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the economic use and allocation of water resources, with the Angat Dam system as the initial case for analysis, for the purpose of drawing up a clear legal framework whereby all these competing interests are equally and fairly observed under a coherent national economic policy on water allocation and utilization.

Adopted,



M A R Roxas
Senator