

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 57

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE WATER ROAD MAP OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO A REPORTED LOOMING WATER CRISIS IN TEN YEARS THAT COULD IMPERIL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING AND STRENGTHENING THE MANDATES OF STATE-RUN WATER AGENCIES AND ENSURING THE ADEQUATE, SAFE AND AFFORDABLE WATER SUPPLY TO FILIPINO HOUSEHOLDS**

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that the State should promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1067 otherwise known as the "Water Code of the Philippines" mandates the State to establish the basic principles and framework relating to the appropriation, control and conservation of water resources to achieve the optimum development and rational utilization of these resources;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 198 created the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) in 1973, to specialize in lending in order to promote and oversee the development of water supply systems in provincial cities and municipalities outside of Metropolitan Manila;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned law that created LWUA also provided for the establishment of water districts in provincial cities and municipalities, which now number to more than seven hundred (700) all over the country and serving around 14 million people;

WHEREAS, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is the lead government agency for the water sector in the Philippines, regarding water resources and potable water and is conferred with policy-making, regulatory and quasi-judicial functions;

WHEREAS, the NWRB is an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and is responsible for ensuring the optimum exploitation, utilization, development, conservation and protection of the country's water resource;

WHEREAS, 20 million Filipinos still rely on their own means for their water supply, including pumps that extract ground water;

WHEREAS, 58% of the groundwater in the country is contaminated while the main source of pollution is untreated domestic and industrial wastewater and only one third of Philippine river systems are considered suitable for public water supply;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2025, water availability will be marginal in most major cities and in 8 of the 19 major river basins;

WHEREAS, in urban areas, water quality does not meet the standards set by the national government;

WHEREAS, only 5% of the total population is connected to a sewer network with the vast majority using flush toilets connected to septic tanks;

WHEREAS in the year 2000 alone, a whole 28.52 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water were withdrawn from various sources in the Philippines, of which 74% were used for agricultural purposes; industry used another 9%, leaving 17% or 4.8 billion m<sup>3</sup> for domestic consumption;

WHEREAS, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its latest "Outlook Report," has warned of a looming water crisis in the country in the next 10 years with the Philippines joining the other 48 countries that are in varying stages of "water insecurity;"

WHEREAS, the Philippines performed poorly in the National Water Security Index, receiving the lowest score of 1 in urban water security among ASEAN countries;

WHEREAS, the water crisis becomes more imminent unless new sources are developed to meet growing demand;

WHEREAS, an official of the Philippine Waterworks Association (PWA) has listed Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Baguio City, and Angeles City in Pampanga as among other urban centers that could face severe water shortage by 2025;

WHEREAS, other urban cities in Luzon like Bulacan, Visayas and in Mindanao like Cagayan de Oro are likewise seeking new water supply sources to address their own looming supply shortage;

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has warned that in 2025, if the country will not take drastic action to conserve water, there may be some grave problems;

WHEREAS, the looming water crisis is being blamed on population growth, deforestation, poverty and wasteful use of resources;

WHEREAS, it was recommended that to address concerns on inadequate supply, both the private sector and the government should look into investing in new water sources and supporting the development of water districts;

WHEREAS, the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has recommended the following in addressing the problems faced by water districts:

- *Promote integration of water districts where drivers are clear;*
- *Integration will need adequate investment finance, and;*
- *Introduce efficiency and performance improvement programs with integration;*

WHEREAS, the same ADB report said that in Asia-Pacific, 3 out of 4 countries have a serious water supply problem;

WHEREAS, it was said that by 2050, the world's population will be a third to a half as large as today, effectively raising water consumption, with 70 percent of the world's usable water to be consumed in agriculture;

WHEREAS, US intelligence agencies in May 2012 said the struggle over access to water supplies could spark global war in the next few decades as drought, floods and a lack of fresh

water confront many developing countries;

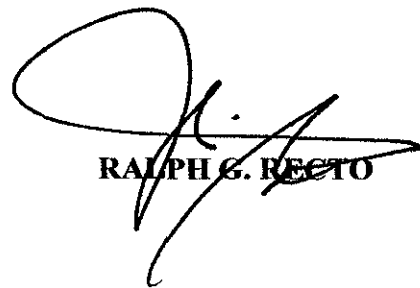
WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the government to draft a comprehensive water road map that would strategize the sourcing of water supply for the urban centers of the country;

WHEREAS, the absence of a water road map would pose a major risk in the national economic development as safe and affordable water becomes a scarce and socially-sensitive commodity; and,

WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry is being sought to ensure the preparedness of the country in dealing with a potential water crisis, review the mandates of state-run water agencies and initiate a national road map for water sufficiency;

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the water road map of the government in relation to a reported looming water crisis in ten years that could imperil national development, with the end in view of reviewing and strengthening the mandates of state-run water agencies and ensuring the adequate, safe and affordable water supply to Filipino households.

Adopted,



**RALPH G. RECTO**