



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 103

'19 JUL -1 P5:39

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

RECEIVED

AN ACT
TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED
PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to safe and clean water supply is one of the most basic human rights that each individual must be able to enjoy. The United Nations defines the right to water as everyone's entitlement to access "sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use." While consistent efforts have been done to ensure that each and every Filipino has access to safe and affordable water supply, there still remains a fraction of the population who is denied of this basic right.

Based on the results of the 2017 Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS) and Water Quality Testing Module of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), a good majority of the families or about 88% reported that they have sufficient access to drinking water, while there still remains 4% who were unable to have sufficient drinking water due to unavailability from the source. The report also showed that families in the rural areas are less likely to have their water sources within their premises compared to families who live in the urban areas.

While the percentage of Filipinos who have access to an improved source of drinking water over the past years have increased significantly, climbing up to 94% of the population in 2017, the potability of water is still not guaranteed, especially since only 77% or four in every five families do not practice any kind of filtration method or treatment that will ensure that their water is safe to drink.

The health risks of an unsafe water supply is a case for serious concern. In fact, according to the World Health Organization, in 2016, acute water diarrhea, which usually comes from unsafe drinking water is one of the top ten leading causes of deaths in the country, claiming over 139,000 lives.

This bill endeavors to address the persisting problem of lack of access to safe drinking water especially in rural areas by establishing a program that would provide every barangay in the country with a potable water supply system within three years.

Providing every Filipino with an easy to access and safe supply of drinking water is an important key to protecting the health and well being of the population. Not only will it decrease the spread of water borne diseases, but it will also let more Filipinos enjoy their right to a healthy and quality life.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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

1 **SECTION. 1 Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the
2 quality of health of every Filipino through the provision of adequate social service
3 including, but not limited to, the provision of an adequate potable water supply system
4 to minimize the exposure of water borne diseases.

5 **SEC. 2. Lead Agencies.** - The Department of Interior and Local Government, in
6 cooperation with the Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and
7 Highways shall undertake a three-year program for the construction of potable water
8 supply system in every barangay throughout the country. The program shall give priority
9 to areas with social and health problems brought about by the water-borne diseases
10 taking into consideration population, area served, project cost and other economic, social
11 and environmental factors as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program
12 within the context of the national development plans. The lead agencies concerned, in
13 consultation with the provincial and municipal development councils, shall determine the
14 areas that shall be given priority.

15 **SEC. 3. Program Guidelines.** - The lead agencies concerned shall observe the
16 following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and management of
17 potable water supply project:

- 18 (a) Funds provided for in this Act shall be used only for the construction of the
19 new potable water supply system;
- 20 (b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;
- 21 (c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the
22 provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and
23 municipalities having inadequate supply of potable water;
- 24 (d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the planning,
25 identification, design, management of funds, construction and monitoring of
26 the project;
- 27 (e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local
28 government unit concerned;

1 (f) The provincial officers of the Department of Interior and Local Government
2 Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways, shall
3 be responsible in the preparation of feasibility studies and design of communal
4 water supply projects.

5 **SEC. 4. Appropriation.** - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) is
6 hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this act. Thereafter,
7 the succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation shall be included in the
8 annual General Appropriations Act until the program shall have been completed.

9 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held
10 unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall
11 continue to be in force and effect.

12 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders,
13 rules and regulation and inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby amended,
14 repealed or modified accordingly.

15 **SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper or general circulation.

17
18 *Approved,*