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



'22 JUL 12 A9:59

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 310

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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**AN ACT**  
**TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING 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 denied of this basic right.

Based on the results of the 2017 Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS) and Water Quality Testing Module of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), a good majority of the families of about 88% reported that they have sufficient access to drinking water, while there still remains 4% who were unable to 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 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 77% of 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.

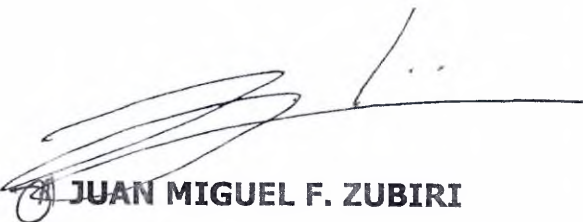
The health risks of an unsafe water supply is a case for serious concern. In fact, according to the World Health Organization, in 2016, acute water diarrhea, which usually comes from unsafe drinking water is one of the top ten leading causes of death in the country, claiming over 139,000 lives.

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.



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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22 JUL 12 A10 :00

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**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**

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

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

20  
21       (a) Funds provided for in this act shall be used only for the construction of the new  
22       potable water supply system.

23  
24       (b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;  
25

1 (c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the  
2 provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and  
3 municipalities having inadequate supply of potable water.  
4

5 (d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the project in the  
6 project planning, identification, design, management of all project funds,  
7 construction and monitoring;  
8

9 (e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local  
10 government unit concerned;  
11

12 (f) The provincial officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development  
13 Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways, shall  
14 be responsible in the preparation of feasibility studies and design of communal  
15 water supply project.  
16

17 **SEC. 4. Appropriation.** - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (50,000,000.00) is  
18 hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this act. Thereafter,  
19 the succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation shall be included in the  
20 annual General Appropriations Act until the program shall have been completed.  
21

22 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of Act is held unconstitutional,  
23 other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in  
24 force and effect.  
25

26 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders,  
27 rule and regulation and inconsistent with the provision of this Act are here amended,  
28 repealed or modified accordingly.  
29

30 **SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
31 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper or general circulation.  
32

33 *Approved,*