

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5987**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to safe and potable water is fundamental in every community. It cannot be emphasized enough that clean water is critical to every man's survival.

Unfortunately, in the Philippines, only 86% of the 23 million families have access to safe water supply. The remaining 14% get their water from unsafe sources, thus, bringing various illnesses and infections into the household.

This bill seeks to address this alarming problem, by seeking to establish a potable water supply system in every barangay within three years. This shall be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

This measure also focuses on the priority construction of a communal water supply system that will be equitably distributed to the provinces and municipalities that most need them.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT

PROMOTING 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 Congress assembled:

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

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

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

- (a) Funds provided for in this act shall be used only for the construction of the new potable water supply system;
- (b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;

- (c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities having inadequate supply of potable water.
- (d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the project in the project planning, identification, design, management of all project funds, construction and monitoring;
- (e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local government unit concerned;
- (f) The provincial officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways, shall be responsible in the preparation of feasibility studies and design of communal water supply project.

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

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

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

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

Approved,