

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

First Regular Session  
**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

House Resolution No. 501



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**Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo**

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**A RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING MANILA WATER'S 780% HIKE WARNING IN THE EVENT THAT THE SUPREME COURT DOES NOT REVERSE ITS DECISION TO PENALIZE THE COMPANY FOR ITS FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE CLEAN WATER ACT**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean Water Act of the Philippines, mandates the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and water concessionaires to connect the sewage lines of subdivisions, condominiums, and other establishments to a sewerage system;

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) already sanctioned Manila Water and Maynilad for failing to put up sufficient sewerage facilities;

WHEREAS, the ruling of the DENR which sanctioned these concessionaires was appealed in the Court of Appeals (CA), with the CA affirming the ruling of the DENR;

WHEREAS, just this year last August, the Supreme Court upheld the 2011 ruling of the Court of Appeals that found Manila Water and Maynilad guilty of violating the Clean Water Act for their failure to provide sewerage connections to all their customers;

WHEREAS, in this Supreme Court ruling, Manila Water and Maynilad were fined with more than PhP921 million each for not complying with the Clean Water Act, with the MWSS being held jointly liable with them;

WHEREAS, an additional PhP332,102 per day was also ordered to be imposed until the parties settle the fine;

WHEREAS, Maynilad and Manila Water separately filed Motions for Reconsideration against this Supreme Court ruling;

WHEREAS, in its Motion for Reconsideration, Manila Water exclaims that if the Supreme Court ruling is not reversed, the accelerated spending of the company to comply with the high court's order would translate to an increase in the price of water by PhP26.70 per cubic meter – a whopping 780% hike from the prevailing water rates today;

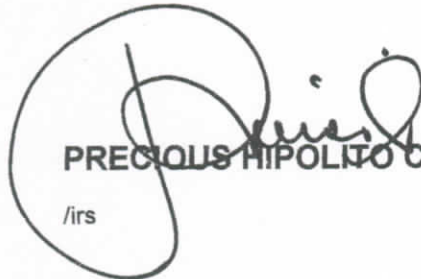
WHEREAS, a 780% increase in water consumption rates is downright unconscionable, excessive, iniquitous, and exorbitant;

WHEREAS, this plan to pass on the fines to the consumers is absolutely ludicrous and reprehensible, as it is not the consumers who violated the law;

WHEREAS, this judicial blackmail shall not be tolerated as it pits the interest of the judiciary to uphold justice on the one hand, and the plight of the common people who will not be able to afford this impending increase, on the other hand;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, regarding Manila Water's 780% hike warning in the event that the Supreme Court does not reverse its decision to penalize it for its failure to comply with the Clean Water Act.

*ADOPTED,*



PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO  
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