

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

548

RESOLUTION NO. _____



Introduced by: CONG. BAYANI "BF" FERNANDO

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON METRO
MANILA DEVELOPMENT TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSAL TO
DEVELOP THE WAWA DAM IN RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL**

WHEREAS, Wawa Dam is a gravity dam constructed over the Marikina river in the Municipality of Rodriguez Rizal in the 1909 during the American colonial era to provide the water needs for Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, sometime in 1967 Angat Dam became operational and the development of Wawa Dam was put to an end. Angat Dam then became the primary source of water supply of Metro Manila residents;

WHEREAS, due however to Metro Manila's deteriorating water supply the National Government through the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System(MWSS) explored possible water sources and regarded that Wawa Dam is the best alternative source of Metro Manila's water supply. It considered Wawa Dam project as the Administrations flagship project in terms of water security program;

WHEREAS, sometime in May 2019 the development of Wawa Dam was initially approved by the MWSS, it passed through the Office of Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) and on 7 November 2019 the approved the said measure. On 14 November 2019, the MWSS during their Board Meeting finally gave a green light to the proposal of the WawaJVCO, a joint venture of Prime Infra and San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group to finally develop the Wawa Dam. The project is expected to generate at least 80 million liters per day for Manila by 2021 and over 500 million liters per day in 2025. The project is set to break ground next year;

WHEREAS, according to the joint ventures' press releases various public consultations have been made by the MWSS to give the public opportunity to learn about the project details as well as tariff impact;

WHEREAS, the position of the MWSS with respect to the said project is a complete turnaround of the agency's position because in 2010, the then MWSS and Manila Water have expressed concerns about sourcing raw water from Wawa Dam. In fact, then MWSS Administrator Diosdado Jose Allado said the water utilities regulator has expressed serious concerns in tapping the Wawa dam. He said then that several studies showed that the

development of the Marikina River Basin for water supply is both socially and technically unacceptable;

WHEREAS, sometime in June 2010 a newspaper reported that

“increasing the height of the Wawa Dam, and consequently its storage capacity indicates difficulty in controlling seepage/leaks through the limestone mass even with the use of expensive grouting.

Because the Wawa Dam is only a few kilometers from the Marikina Valley fault line, there is a risk to nearby Metro Manila which makes the Wawa Dam not technically and financially viable, the MWSS studies noted.

Manila Water had noted that a recent hydrologic study conducted in 2005 showed that sourcing 50 MLD from the Wawa River is not feasible for the whole year.

According to Manila Water, “construction of another dam structure may be feasible, but that will increase the cost of the project and will render the project not financially viable.”

Manila Water also cited a 2007 study on the water quality of the Wawa water source that noted that while a conventional treatment system with a standby advanced treatment units (ATU) such as reverse osmosis or ozonation may be considered “this will also increase the capex (capital expenditures) and opex (operating expenditures) of the project significantly and will render the project not viable.
”<https://www.philstar.com/business/2010/06/23/586393/mwss-manila-water-concerned-over-wawa-dam-source#59XCMDBLc53BeEBW.99>

WHEREAS, otherwise stated, there is an urgent need to determine on why in 2010 the position of the MWSS was not to push through with the project because of the technical and safety issues of Wawa Dam development and yet the MWSS now, gave its imprimatur;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to direct the House Committee on Metro Manila Development to inquire, in aid of legislation, as to the safety and security concerns of the development of the Wawa Dam and its effect to the safety of lives and properties of the residents of Marikina City and other neighboring cities and towns along the Marikina Valley.

Adopted,


CONG. BAYANI "EF" FERNANDO