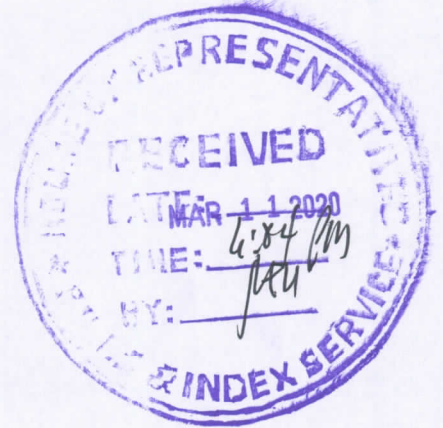




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 790

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CESAR "JAWO" L. JIMENEZ, JR.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSED WATERAGE INCREASE OF ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Section 4 (e) of Republic Act No. 6713 (R.A. 6713) otherwise known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees" provides, "Responsiveness to the public stating that public officials and employees shall extend prompt, courteous, and adequate service to the public. Unless otherwise provided by law or when required by the public interest, public officials and employees shall **provide information of their policies and procedures in clear and understandable language, ensure openness of information, public consultations and hearings whenever appropriate**, encourage suggestions, simplify and systematize policy, rules and procedures, avoid red tape and develop an understanding and appreciation of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, especially in the depressed rural and urban areas." (*Emphasis Supplied*)

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Letter of Instruction No. 700 provides, "The water district concerned shall conduct **public hearings** prior to any proposed increase in water rates." (*Emphasis Supplied*)

WHEREAS, the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD) has submitted a Program of Work to the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) for the loan of P902,953,352.00 with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which LWUA thereafter approved.

WHEREAS, the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD) did not inform the people of its present financial status during any of the public consultations, contrary to the aforesaid provision of R.A. 6713. Neither did the ZCWD presented a financial report to the public.

WHEREAS, reports from sources privy to ZCWD reveal that it has several outstanding obligations with various water concessionaires and service providers – a red flag indicating that ZCWD might be operating in a loss.

WHEREAS, ZCWD could have opted for other proposals from the private sector in the upgrading of its water facilities and services, without necessitating loan contracting and waterage increase, nevertheless, it chose a more onerous agreement to the detriment of the consuming public.

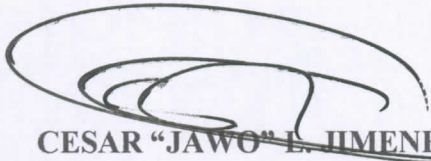
WHEREAS, Section 63 of Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended provides, “The rates or charges established by such local district, after hearing shall have been conducted for the purpose, shall be subject to review by the Administration to establish compliance with the abovestated provisions.”

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Letter of Instruction No. 744 provides, “The Local Water Utilities Administration and each water district shall prepare a public education program which shall concentrate on the need and methods for water conservation, water rates, water facilities requirements and need for financing, and other related aspects of water district operations. They shall, in addition, prepare a comprehensive program and **system of public consultation, both formally in hearings and informally through an education program, when considering increases in water rates**, particularly at the time when water districts initiate operation.”
(Emphasis Supplied)

WHEREAS, there were no formal hearings conducted for the proposed waterage increase when ZCWD concluded the Public Hearing Stage.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, urging the appropriate House Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proposed waterage increase of Zamboanga City Water District.

Approved,


CESAR "JAWO" L. JIMENEZ, JR.

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