

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 1309



Introduced by: HON. SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

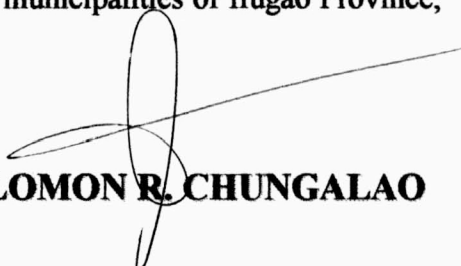
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Potable, clean and flowing water for domestic use is a basic problem in the upland and lowland areas in the Province of Ifugao despite its vast forest areas and declared a forest protected area in order to insure the waters that will flow to the Magat Dam, the biggest Dam in Asia.

The problem arises not for the lack of water but for other lack of resources needed to tap the waters from the mountains and bring it to the populace.

Through all these years, however, there is a first class mineral water source at the Mount Polis-Sumigar area at Banaue, Ifugao Province that remains untapped. This water source now is endangered of being destroyed due to rampant intrusion of illegal logging in the area. Honest efforts to contain it proved futile unless with the cooperation of the local populace in the area who themselves also look to the area for a source of living. The only possible way of preserving the area which is likewise the source of irrigation waters for the famed Banaue Rice Terraces is tap the waters for domestic use and bring it to the Poblacion of Banaue, Ifugao and the Municipalities of Hingyon, and Lagawe, all of Ifugao Province with the earning generated from the project after completion to be securitized by the Local Government Units concerned to fund livelihood projects to the surrounding barangays around the area before declaring it a protected area and/or watershed.

In view of the foregoing considerations, and in the interest of developing a Potable Water System that will improve the level of health, the living conditions, and general well-being of thousands of people in three [3] municipalities of Ifugao Province, approval of this bill is urgently requested.


SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POTABLE WATER
SUPPLY SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANAUE, HINGYON,
LAGAWE AND LAMUT, ALL OF IFUGAO PROVINCE AND ABOLISHING
THE IFUGAO DISTRICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:*

SECTION 1. There shall be established and maintained, a Potable Waterworks System under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Local Government Units of the Municipalities of Banaue, Hingyon, and Lagawe, all of Ifugao Province.

SECTION 2. The DPWH upon completion of the waterworks system shall turn-over this project to the respective Municipalities of Banaue, Hingyon and Lagawe, which shall administer, operate and maintain the waterworks system as an economic enterprise, and with the authority to formulate rules and regulations, guidelines and determine water consumption rates for consumers.

SECTION 3. It is hereby incorporated that five [5] percentage of the total gross collections by the Municipalities of Hingyon and Lagawe, both of Ifugao Province out of the foregoing Water Works System shall be paid to the Municipality of Banaue which shall utilized the same for livelihood projects for the affected barangays around and /or adjacent to the Mount Polis-Sumigar area as well as for reforestation projects in the municipality.

SECTION 4. The initial amount of Fifty Million (P 50,000,000.00) or so much as may be necessary, shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act which shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Public Works and Highways under the General Appropriation Act. Thereafter, the amount as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks system shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipalities of Banaue, Hingyon and Lagawe.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.