

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2330

Introduced by Honorable Samuel M. Dangwa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Running almost in parallel to the Baguio-Bontoc National Road, the Balili River with head waters from Baguio City stretches more than five Kilometers traversing northward cutting through the valley's commercial districts, residential areas and farmlands before finally disposing itself at the Bineng precipice just below the Provincial Capitol. For over a century, the river played a major role in sustaining life in this highland valley. It was primarily the source of irrigation long before the valley's plains were converted into what is known as the "Salad Bowl" of the Philippines. Abounding in fresh water fish that supplied the demand of local consumption, it also served as the drinking well of farm animals and cattle during the early times of highland native ranches.

Sad to say, however, that at present the river's beneficial role which greatly contributed in shaping the destiny of this once sleepy town into the bustling capital town of Benguet became a thing of the past as pollution of every kind from the industries of Baguio City aggravated by improper waste disposal rendered the river useless. Siltation caused by said erosion is also at its worst causing the river to easily swell during heavy rains and typhoons flooding residential areas and damaging farmlands.

Every year, damages on properties is estimated at over ten million pesos. Unless remedial measures will be undertaken, one-fourth of the valley's total land area will be a virtual waste land within the next few years.

Aside from farmlands, among those that are continuously exposed to the river's threat of destruction are commercial areas along Km. 4, the Benguet State University buildings at the Colleges of Veterinary and Nursing, the employees' cottages and the University's main road. Also, downstream at Sitios Tabangaoen and Cabanao are hundreds of residential areas that need immediate embankment or flood control.

Considering the degree of damages caused by the river on both private and public properties, and its continuing threat to the community, the construction of flood control system on both sides of the river has become imperative.

Approved of this bill is therefore, earnestly requested.


SAMUEL M. DANGWA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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**“ AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLOOD CONTROL
IN BARANGAY BALILI, MUNICIPALITY OF LA TRINIDAD, PROVINCE OF
BENGUET AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF.”**

*Be it in acted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
in congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1.** There shall be constructed, under the supervision of the
2 Department of Public Works and Highways, Flood Control in Barangay Balili,
3 Municipality of La Trinidad, Province of Benguet.

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5 **SECTION 2.** The amount of ONE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P 100 M)
6 needed for the construction of the Flood Control shall be charged to the appropriation
7 of the Department of Public Works and Highways under the current General
8 Appropriations Act. Thereafter such sums as may be necessary for the repair and
9 maintenance shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

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11 **SECTION 3.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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13 Approved.