

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2856



Introduced by Honorable Arthur "Dodo" Y. Pingoy, Jr., M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

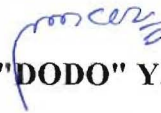
This bill seeks to stabilize the price of bottled water by including it as a basic necessity under Republic Act No. 7581 otherwise known as the "Price Act".

The Philippines is an archipelagic country. As such, water resource is abundant from the seas, rivers, lakes and waterfalls. Mineral springs are easily found. Our country is rich with all the things that are best for life such as sunlight and water. These are nature's gifts to us, and are available to everyone for free.

With its rich and attractive natural resources, such as, but not limited to, white sand beaches and diverse marine life, spectacular waterfalls, volcanoes, and mountains, our country has become a favorite place of destination for tourists. There was a time that these tourists brought along with them bottled water thinking that our water was not safe for drinking. Our business-minded countrymen hit on a bright idea. Hence, the business of manufacturing/processing bottled water began to flourish rapidly in our country.

It is regrettable, however, that the price of bottled water in the market is competing with that of soft drinks. However, soft drinks undergo a more complex processing requiring costly investment, while bottled water undergoes purification process, which is not complex nor costly. It is now becoming a practice that unless requested, our restaurants do not serve water anymore. Instead, they opt to sell bottled water.

With this practice, it has become imperative to regulate the pricing of bottled water in order to make it available to everyone at a minimal cost. Hence, approval of this bill is highly recommended.


ARTHUR "DODO" Y. PINGOY, JR., M.D.

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AN ACT
INCLUDING BOTTLED WATER AS A BASIC NECESSITY AND STABILIZING
ITS PRICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE "PRICE ACT."

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7581 otherwise known as the "Price
Act", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the term:

- (1) "Basic necessities" includes: rice, corn, bread; fresh, dried and
canned fish and other marine products, fresh pork, beef and
poultry meat; fresh eggs; fresh and processed milk; fresh
vegetables; root crops; coffee; **BOTTLED WATER**; sugar;
cooking oil; salt; laundry soap; detergents; firewood; charcoal;
candles; and drugs classified as essential by the Department of
Health;

x x x"

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,