

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4269



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LEOVIGILDO B. BANAAG, SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO, JOSE G. SOLIS, CATALINO V. FIGUEROA, EDUARDO C. FIRMALO, ROSELLER L. BARINAGA, AND ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to institutionalize the National Watershed Management Forum in order to provide a permanent venue for organized discussion on watershed management issues among all sectors of society anchored on the experiences of implementing agencies and the evolving theories from the natural and social sciences.

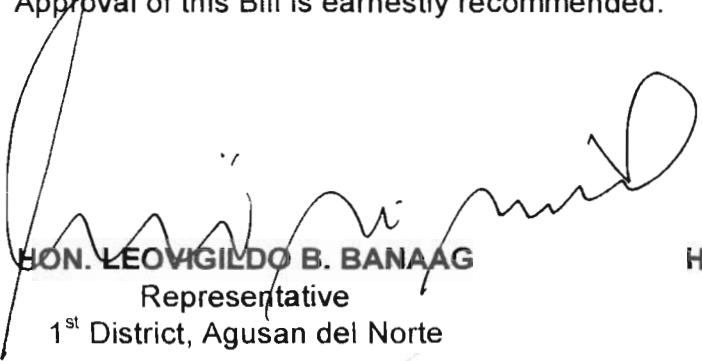
Watersheds are vital life support systems essential to the stability and development of the country. They are the main sources of freshwater, timber and non-timber products, and other foods and services of immense environmental and economic values. Unfortunately, most of the country's watersheds are currently in varying stages of degradation and are threatened by a host of biophysical, socioeconomic, and politico-institutional factors.

In order to successfully neutralize the threats to the sustainability of the watersheds, concerted effort of all concerned public and private sectors is exceedingly required. Thus, while field implementation of policies, programs, and projects on watershed management are already being undertaken by various government agencies and private organizations, it is essential that dialogues are also conducted to provide the public and other stakeholders an opportunity to exchange and share information and new knowledge on the dynamics and constraints involved in watershed policy implementation.

Between 1995 and 2002, several government and private agencies have banded together and organized six (6) Multi-Sectoral Watershed Management Forums (MWMF), where issues ranging from research, state of the art policies, programs, strategies for improved watershed management, public and private sector initiatives and involvement in watershed management to legislative actions were openly discussed and shared to bring about positive changes on the ground.

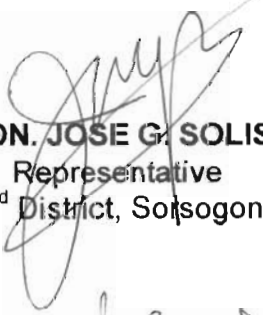
In recognition of the value to sustain the gains of the previous MWMF and harness the full potential as catalyst in promoting the sustainability of watersheds in the country, it is imperative that this activity is institutionalized for greater synergy among the various agencies and institutions.

Approval of this Bill is earnestly recommended.



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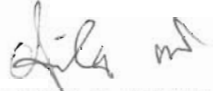
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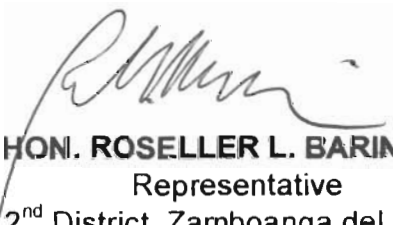
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AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT FORUM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title* – This Act shall be known and cited as the National Watershed
2 Management Forum Act of 2005.

3 **SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – As vital life support systems essential to the stability
4 and development of the country as sources of freshwater, timber and non-timber products, and
5 other goods and services of immense environmental and economic values, the Philippines
6 watersheds, most of which are in varying stages of degradation and threatened by a host of
7 biophysical, socioeconomic, and politico-institutional factors, must be continuously studied and
8 openly discussed by all sectors.

9 Between 1995 and 2002, several government and private agencies have banded together
10 and organized six (6) Multi-Sectoral Watershed Management Forums (MWMF), where issues
11 ranging from research, state of the art, policies, programs, strategies for improved watershed
12 management, public and private sector initiatives and involvement in watershed management to
13 legislative actions were openly discussed and shared to bring about positive changes on the
14 ground.

15 In recognition of the value to sustain the gains of the previous MWMF and harness its full
16 potential as catalyst in promoting the sustainability of watersheds in the country, it is hereby
17 declared the policy of the State to institutionalize the National Watershed Management Forum for
18 greater synergy among the various agencies and institutions involved.

1 **Section 3. *Institutionalization of the National Watershed Management***

2 **Forum.-** The Multi-sectoral National Watershed Management Forum (NWMF) is
3 hereby established to provide a venue for regular comprehensive discussion and
4 deliberation of current vital issues and sharing of experiences and information on
5 watershed management and thereby create an environment favorable for the
6 formulation of science-based policies and programs that will enhance the
7 sustainability of the country's watershed resources.

8 **Section 4. *Composition of the National Watershed Management***

9 **Forum.-** The National Watershed Management Forum shall be composed of the
10 following agencies and representatives:

- 11 a. Forestry Development Center, College of Forestry and Natural
12 Resources-University of the Philippines Los Baños;
- 13 b. Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Senate of the
14 Philippines;
- 15 c. Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives;
- 16 d. Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural
17 Resources;
- 18 e. Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Department of Agriculture;
- 19 f. National Power Corporation;
- 20 g. National Water Resources Board;
- 21 h. National Irrigation Administration;
- 22 i. Local Water Utilities Administration;
- 23 j. Philippine council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources
24 Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology;
- 25 k. Office of Project Development Services, Department of Interior and Local
26 Government;
- 27 l. Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corporation
- 28 m. Representatives from the industry and private sectors.

29 **Section 5. *Functions of the National Watershed Management Forum.-***

30 The primary functions of the National Watershed Management Forum shall be the
31 following:

- 32
- 33 a) Plan, organize, and implement annual Multi-sectoral Watershed
34 Management Forum and other related activities.

b) Establish linkage with other organizations and relevant institutions that are involved in watershed management and coordinate their activities for specific programs and projects pertaining to watersheds.

c) Advocate watershed legislation, policies and programs that will promote integrated watershed management in the country.

d) Propose, conduct and implement multi-agency watershed management projects.

e) Perform such other functions that are requisite and necessary to attain a sustained increase of the amount of goods and services coming from the country's watersheds for the benefit of the people.

Section 6. Lead Agency.- To ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the functions of the National Watershed Management Forum, the Forestry Development Center created pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1559 shall be the lead agency and shall:

1. Prepare the annual work and financial plan of the NWMF;
2. Prepare and submit project proposals to funding agencies;
3. Coordinate the conduct of regular Multi-sectoral Watershed Forum;
4. Package and cause the publication of the proceedings of Multi-sectoral Watershed management Forum as one of the outputs of the National Watershed Management Forum, as well as other materials and researches that promote its advocacies;
5. Spearhead the development and conduct of advocacy and other projects of the National Watershed Management Forum;
6. Undertake such other activities in pursuit of the primary functions of the National Watershed Management Forum;
7. Encourage the active participation of other agencies/organizations in its activities;
8. Management and administer the NWMF Fund;
9. Generate and accept grants, donations, and other contributions.

Section 7. Roles and Responsibilities of the NWMF Members.- The members of the NWMF shall:

1. Participate in the formulation of the annual agenda of the NWMF.

1 2. Participate in the annual planning, organization, and conduct of the Multi-
2 sectoral Watershed Management Forum.

3 3. Participate in the development and conduct of advocacy and other
4 projects of the NWMF.

5 4. Provide and/or help generate resources and/or funds for the Forum and
6 for the various programs, projects, and activities to be undertaken by the NWMF.

7 **Section 8. *Funding Mechanism.***- A National Watershed Management
8 Forum Fund is hereby established under the annual General Appropriations Act, to
9 be charged to the allocation of the Forestry Development Center and from the
10 allocation for watershed activities of all government agencies implementing
11 watershed programs and projects constituting the National Watershed Management
12 Forum established pursuant to Section 4 hereof. The Fund shall be complemented
13 by grants, donations, and contributions from other public agencies, private persons
14 and institutions, and from local and international funding agencies. This Fund shall
15 be managed and administered by the Forestry Development Center strictly in
16 accordance with the approved annual budget work plan. The National Watershed
17 Management Forum shall formulate specific guidelines for the generation,
18 management, and utilization of the Fund.

19 **Section 9. *Ownership of Intellectual Property.***- All outputs generated
20 from the programs, projects, and activities shall be jointly owned by all members of
21 the National Watershed Management Forum. These outputs such as publication
22 shall include all members of the Forum as publisher and all reports shall be made in
23 the name of the members. The names of the principal authors/researchers/project
24 leaders shall be identified, recognized and included in the reports. In all cases, the
25 applicable provisions of the Protection of Intellectual Property Act shall govern the
26 use of all intellectual property by the National Watershed Management Forum.

27 **Section 10. *Repealing Clause.***- All other existing laws, rules and
28 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

29 **Section 11. *Separability Clause.***- If any part or section of this Act is
30 declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or
31 sections hereof.

32 **Section 12. *Effectivity Clause.***- This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days
33 from its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

34 Approved,