

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

13th Congress
Regular Session

House Bill No. 4508



Introduced by **Honorable PEDRO M. PANCHO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Some years back, I filed several bills in Congress to get support for the improvement of the water system in Metro Manila and in the Province of Bulacan. The MWSS did not respond favorably despite knowledge of the bad condition of the water services for human consumption and agricultural industries. The water shortage is a yearly problem but no solution has been formulated. The billions of pesos earning is more than enough to build another reservoir to preserve the excess water that flows to the sea, and destroy the crops, fishponds and home appliances.

The home consumers in Metro Manila use muddy water for drinking. The unhealthy people in the remote areas suffer from various diseases they got from the dirty water. In Bulacan, the farmers cannot get sufficient supply for agricultural purposes due to the expansion service to other neighboring cities.

The MWSS argues that they cannot provide water to the Bulakeños or give its share from the billions of pesos in gross sales. They argue that the water is not considered as part of our natural resources but they admit that it is national wealth. Their big mistake is that they did not honor and prioritize the home consumers and instead gave the water to industrial users that lost the essence of the agreement.

For this reason, the farmers failed to cultivate their land for lack of assistance to produce water during dry season.

If the MWSS cannot provide water to the Bulakeños, its 1% share from the billion peso gross sales should be harnessed to finance the construction of another water basin for the homeowner consumers of the twenty four (24) towns in Bulacan who borrowed money for their own water system. Whatever amount is left shall be used for putting up deep wells to supply the water for the farmers for agricultural purposes.

This assistance which comes from the water income shall define its exclusive use for water production to sustain a continuous supply of water and not for other purposes until such time that we have developed a very efficient and effective service to the Bulakeños.

For more than eighty (80) years, the Bulakeños sacrificed of not getting water, but now, will cut the water supply in Metro Manila before the farmers die for lack of water. The solution of expanding service to several cities will mean a big problem because of the shortage of water in Bulacan in dishonoring the specific distribution for Manila consumers.

The collection of our one percent (1%) share from the gross sale of water located within our territorial jurisdiction will show that our natural wealth will be used for an honest and sincere service to our community and promoting fair play in the market of the MWSS without breaking the contract on the following reasons:

1. no selling of water that comes from Bulacan in neighboring cities and provinces
2. no selling of water supply except for Metro Manila consumers as per agreement
3. no expansion of water services without giving assistance to the owner of the water, the Bulacan farmers and home consumers
4. no service upgrade without constructing additional reservoir to supply the expanded area

In short, spending billions of pesos for useless projects on the part of Bulacan consumers with no benefits was delivered.

Accordingly, approval of the attached bill is earnestly requested.


PEDRO M. PANCHO

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***"AN ACT PRESCRIBING THAT THE AMOUNT COLLECTED FROM THE MWSS
SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE TWENTY FOUR (24) TOWNS OF
BULACAN FOR WATER PRODUCTION FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AND
NOT FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE."***

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in session assembled.

Section 1. – The one (1%) percent share from the gross sale of the MWSS as provided in Section 291 of the Local Government Code will be used for the construction of pumping stations for the consumers of the twenty-four (24) towns in Bulacan. Whatever amount left will be used for putting up deep wells for the consumption of the farmers.

Sec. 2. - The MWSS shall formulate the necessary guidelines for the proper implementation of the Act.

Sec. 3. – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,