

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

13th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4949



Introduced by **Honorable PEDRO M. PANCHO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The water shortage in Metro Manila is the discouraging scenario of our consumers in the near future but the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) does not give effective response to the call of 28,700 farmers including 15,000 families working during harvest season. The Angat Maasim River Irrigation System (AMRIS) Confederation of Farmers was registered in the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) in March 10, 1987 to make a legal claim to get a definite amount of water to be used in land cultivation during dry season.

Instead of transferring the share of the tiller of the soil for their own field consumption, water is delivered to Metro Manila for commercial, factories, hotel and billionaire's subdivision, for lack of another dam in Bulacan. An alternative reservoir should be built in Bayabas, Doña Remedios Trinidad to solve the water crisis.

The MWSS is earning billions of pesos but not spending enough for water production or improved water service to the community including the many billion pesos lost in agriculture every year. No competent study is made to provide sufficient supply of water to the growing palay. This leads to a bad relationship between consumers and farmers who need big volume of water supply especially during times of drought. The critical condition affects millions of families even if they pay high rates of water bills.

The government borrows billions of dollars to help foreign farmers and not our local cultivators who produce the same items.

The Angat Dam or hilltop reservoir is located within the territorial jurisdiction of Bulacan. The Bulakeños keep silent and sacrifice their share of drinking water provided, NIA water for farming is available to the farmers.

But the priority for human consumption in Metro Manila prevails and the provision in the law is not honored and respected by the MWSS for more than two (2) decades without constructing another dam to save the water from going to the sea and to become commercially viable and serve as government earnings.

To stop the importation of agricultural products and borrowing of dollars which is very destructive to the local business sector, it is now time for our local currency to be harnessed in the development of our fertile soil but idle land especially if the beneficiaries are the hardworking farmers in the rural area. Between the homeowners in Metro Manila and the farmers, the tillers of the soil are the legitimate and legal owners of the water.

In view of this, approval of the attached bill is earnestly requested.


PEDRO M. PANCHO
2nd District of Bulacan

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***“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A DEFINITE QUANTITY OF WATER IN ANGAT DAM
(HILLTOP) FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF AMRIS-MEMBER FARMERS IN
BULACAN FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES ONLY.”***

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

Section 1. – The provision of a definite quantity of water in Angat Dam for exclusive use of AMRIS-member farmers in Bulacan for irrigation purposes only is hereby authorized.

Sec. 2. - The National Irrigation Authority shall formulate and promulgate the necessary guidelines for the proper implementation of the Act.

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

APPROVED,