

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5494



Introduced by Hon. ANGELO B. PALMONES

AN ACT
TO REQUIRE ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TO HAVE
RAIN HARVESTING FACILITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The world's population tripled in the 20th century with the consequent increase in the use of renewable water resources by six-fold. It is also forecasted that the world population will increase by another 40 to 50% in the next fifty years. This population growth and increased industrialization will further increase demand for water.

Worldwide, the UNICEF and WHO indicated that 1.1 billion people live without clean drinking water while 2.6 billion people lack adequate sanitation. This lack of adequate sanitation resulted in death of 1.8 million from diarrheal diseases.

The inadequate supply of water has also great effects food security because expected water withdrawals for irrigation which represents 66% of all withdrawals and aquatic ecosystems and their dependent species are at risk of extinction.

In the Philippines water crisis is a matter of having too much or too little. During the rainy season when the typhoon comes there is too much water and often results in flooding. During the summer months there is too little of it or none at all resulting in drought. This water crisis in the country triggered the passage of RA 4081 or the National Water Crisis Act of 1995 which re-structured the management and distribution of water in Metro Manila. The MWSS and LUWA were re-organized and the private sector was recruited to do water distribution. In spite of these there are still wide shortages of water especially in homes.

Climate change upon us and there is no escaping its impacts. One of these impacts is the changing weather patterns. It has been observed that typhoons are bringing more rains as never before as exemplified by typhoons Pedring and Quiel that caused flooding in as wide swat of area in Regions 1, 2, 3 and Metro Manila. Furthermore, PAGASA has forecasted that Mindanao will be experiencing drought and that the western part of Luzon will experience more rains.

These changing weather patterns with respect to rain emphasize the importance of managing water. The World Water Vision Report states that indeed *"There is a water crisis today. But the crisis is not about having too little water to satisfy our needs. It is a crisis of managing water so badly that billions of people - and the environment - suffer badly."*

One way of doing this is to harvest rain for various uses. It is not only a way of adapting to climate change but also a way of reducing costs in maintaining buildings. New government buildings should be fitted with rain-harvesting facilities for use such as but not limited to flushing toilets and for gardening purposes.

It is therefore urged that this Act be enacted as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Angelo B. Palmones', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ANGELO B. PALMONES
Representative, AGHAM Party List

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the **Rain Harvesting Facility of Government Buildings Act of 2011.**

SECTION 2. Policy Statement - It is the policy of the State to provide adequate supply of clean and unpolluted water for domestic purposes and for sanitation to reduce health risks. Pursuant thereto the State shall take necessary measures to capture rain-water and stave off water crisis.

SECTION 3. Rain-water harvesting facility in government buildings – It is hereby prescribed that all new government buildings shall incorporate in their design rain-water harvesting facility and facility for storage. It is also prescribed that such rain-water harvesting and storage facilities shall be constructed in all old government buildings.

SECTION 4. Approval of designs of public buildings – The Department of Public Works and Highways shall not approve designs of public buildings that do not contain rain-harvesting and storage facilities. The Department shall also ensure that these are included in the actual construction of the buildings.

SECTION 5. Issuance of building permits – Local Government Units shall not issue building permits to government building construction projects that do not incorporate rain-water harvesting and storage facilities.

SECTION 6. Penalties – Approval of building designs without incorporating in the design rain-water harvesting and storage facilities shall incur penalty of a fine of Two Hundred

Thousand Pesos (P200,000) or imprisonment of 6 month or both as the Court so decides. Likewise the non-construction of rain-harvesting and storage facilities that are actually incorporated in the design of the building shall incur the same penalty as the above.

The issuance of a building permit for the construction of government buildings without the incorporation of rain-harvesting and storage facilities shall incur the penalty, to the signatory of the permit, of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000) or imprisonment of 6 months or both as the Court so decides.

SECTION 7. Implementing rules and regulations – The DPWH in consultation with Local Government Units shall issue within 90 days from the date of approval of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability clause - Any portion or provision of this Act which may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) Newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.