



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Fifteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6103

Introduced by Honorable Josefina Manuel-Joson

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Central Luzon Water Council and prescribe its powers and functions.

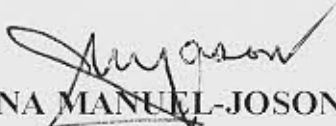
Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that: *"The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."*

The effects of climate change have caused extreme unpredictable weather patterns that usually bring about either an exceptional amount of rainfall or exceptional drought. Recent years had destructive floods and flood-related disasters in the urban as well as rural areas. Many lives had been taken and fortunes lost. Experts even forecast increased rainfall in the coming years.

One of the most typhoon ravaged and flood-prone region in the country is the Central Luzon, popularly known as the nation's rice granary. It suffers from the onslaught of floods due to its natural terrain. Farmers raise the concern of the extreme realities of flood and drought that they frequently experience. This region thus deserves the adequate protection from these natural hazards. Government must harness its capability to take advantage of the enormous water resources the region receives during typhoons into a useful natural resource not only for the farmers but to other end users.

This bill seeks to create a determined and organized agency that will consolidate, coordinate and regulate all water related activities in the region. It also seeks to promote water conservation and protection through the involvement of all related offices and agencies of government.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JOSEFINA MANUEL-JOSON



Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Fifteenth Congress

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6103

Introduced by Honorable Josefina Manuel-Joson

AN ACT

CREATING THE CENTRAL LUZON WATER COUNCIL AND PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
“*Central Luzon Water Council Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to
protect the life and property, and promote the general welfare of the
people in Central Luzon, which are essential in the enjoyment of the
blessing of democracy through the conservation and protection of water
resources in the area. The State shall also adopt a continuing and
permanent system of rules, regulations and protocol to protect the water
resources from degradation, depletion, and pollution in order to preserve
flow regimes, biodiversity and cultural heritage as well as to mitigate
water related hazards in Central Luzon. Towards this end, the State shall

ensure a more coordinated, resource and technology-sharing government structure through the creation of the Central Luzon Water Council.

SEC. 3. *Central Luzon Water Council.* – A Central Luzon Water Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created for the conservation and protection of water resources and flood prevention and control in the Central Luzon Region.

The Council shall be the sole policy-making body of the government within the Central Luzon Region tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and action plans of the different local government units in the area. The Council shall also ensure the optimum utilization, exploitation, development, conservation and protection of the water resources and the prevention and control of potential damage brought by natural water hazards in Central Luzon.

SEC. 4. *Composition.* – The Council shall be composed of the following Central Luzon and other government and non-government officials:

- a) The Chairman of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, as Chairperson;
- b) The Regional Director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, as Vice-Chairperson;
- c) The Regional Director of the National Water Resources Board;

- d) The Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- e) The Regional Director of the Department of Energy;
- f) The Regional Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- g) The Regional Director of the Department of Health;
- h) The Regional Director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- i) The Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
- j) The Regional Director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- k) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- l) The Regional Director of the National Housing Authority;
- m) The Regional Director of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board;
- n) The Chairperson of the National Water Review Board (NWRB);
- o) The Head of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA);
- p) The Provincial Governors and the City Mayors of Central Luzon; and

q) A representative from non-government organizations each representing the farmer's sector, the indigenous community and the academe, as members.

The Regional Office of the Civil Defense in the Central Luzon Region shall serve as the secretariat of the Council. The Council shall be organized within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.* – The Council shall exercise the following powers and functions:

a) Ensure the mainstreaming of water resource in Central Luzon, in synergy with disaster risk reduction, into the local development plans and programs;

b) Coordinate and synchronize water resource programs of all Region III's local government units;

c) Formulate a framework of strategy to serve as the basis for a program for planning, research and development, extension; and monitoring of activities thereat;

d) Exercise policy coordination to ensure the attainment of goals set in the framework of strategy and program on water resource;

e) Recommend local and national legislation concerning the policies, strategies, programs on and appropriations for water resource adaptation and mitigation and other related activities for Central Luzon;

f) Recommend key development investments and infrastructure in water resource including but not limited to water impoundment to ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals in Central Luzon;

g) Create an enabling environment that shall promote broader multi-stakeholder participation and integrate water resource conservation and utilization;

h) Coordinate and establish a close partnership with the local government units in Central Luzon in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness in reducing the people's vulnerability to water-related disasters;

i) Formulate and update guidelines for determining vulnerability to water resource impacts and adaptation assessments and facilitate the provision of technical assistance for their implementation and monitoring;

j) Facilitate capacity building for local adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring of water resource initiatives in vulnerable communities and areas;

k) Promote and provide technical support to local research and development programs and projects in vulnerable communities and areas;
and

1) Oversee the dissemination of information on water resource, local vulnerabilities and risks, relevant laws and protocols and water conservation and utilization measures.

SEC. 6. *Meetings.* – Regular meetings of the Council shall be held at least once a month. Special meetings may be held as often as may be deemed necessary: *Provided*, That in the absence or incapacity of the members to attend any regular or special meeting of the Council, the duly designated representative of the member shall attend and be vested with the same power and authority as a regular member.

A quorum of the Council shall consist of the majority of the members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the chairperson of the Council is among those present in the meeting.

SEC. 7. *Compensation and Remuneration.* – Members of the Council shall be entitled to the necessary traveling expenses and allowances chargeable against the funds of their respective department, bureau, or office, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

The Council members representing the non-government organizations shall also be entitled to reasonable allowances.

SEC. 8. *Framework Strategy, Master Plan and Program on Water Resource.* – The Council shall, within one (1) year from its

organization, formulate a Framework Strategy, Master Plan and Program on water resource conservation, impoundment and utilization for Central Luzon. These instruments shall serve as the basis for a uniform program for water resource planning, research and development to guide the water resource activities of the Regional Offices of the national government and the local government units in Central Luzon.

The Framework Strategy shall include, but not limited to, the following components of the water sector, namely: impoundment, conservation and utilization of water resources, flood protection and control, including their impact, vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation assessments, policy formulation, research and development, database development and management, advocacy and information dissemination, monitoring and evaluation.

The Framework shall be reviewed every three (3) years, or as may be deemed necessary.

The Council shall formulate a Central Luzon Water Resource Master Plan and Program in accordance with the Framework within one (1) year after the formulation of the latter. The Central Luzon Water Resource Master Plan and Program shall serve as guide in the implementation and coordination of all the water resource plans of the Regional Offices of the national government and the local government units in Central Luzon.

SEC. 9. *Funding.* – The funds necessary for the operation of the Council shall be included in the regular budget of the province, city or municipality under Region III and may be augmented by funds provided by the regional government, grants or donations.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The National Water Resources Board in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Department of the Interior and Local Government shall, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, parts thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,