

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6488



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO G. VALENCIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to provide for the integrated multi-purpose development of the Alag and Dulagan Rivers in the Municipality of Baco, Province of Oriental Mindoro.


With the strong advocacy of the present provincial and national leaders of Oriental Mindoro to protect and preserve the province's natural resources, Oriental Mindoro is among the very few green provinces in the country today. Unfortunately, its geo-hazard risks listed the Province among the TEN (10) FLOOD-PRONE PROVINCES in the Philippines. As typhoons are inevitable, the government should be able to strengthen its capacity to mitigate calamities they bring.

Immediately adjoining the Province's Capital, Calapan City, the Municipality of Baco serves as the vital link to Puerto Galera, the tourism capital of Oriental Mindoro. In the past strong typhoons which hit the Province, a big portion of Baco was rendered underwater for several days adversely affecting its social and economic activities.

Based on studies, flooding in Baco is principally due to the course of its two major rivers, the Alag and Dulagan. Earthquakes, torrential rainfalls and typhoons caused the Alag and Dulagan Rivers to change course. These extreme geophysical events with significant hydrological characteristics over the past two (2) decades accompanied by large hazard of water excesses had caused adverse effects on the safety of the populace, the economy and the environment. In the face of the physical uncertainties brought about by climatic, geophysical and hydrological processes which bear strong influence on human activities in the upland through the lowland to the coastal areas of river basins, more effective development, control and management of water resources are deemed imperative.

To be known as the "Alag-Dulangan Integrated Multi-Purpose Development", this vital infrastructure falls within the priority infrastructure development program of the national government, through the Department of Public Works & Highways (DPWH) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). It will directly address such major concerns as flood control and disaster risks management, irrigation system to cover thousands of fertile land primarily devoted to agricultural production; renewable energy development from its water resources into hydro-power with an estimated 39.5 Megawatts capacity or more; and a major source of potable water.

Hence, the approval of this Bill is strongly recommended.


RODOLFO G. VALENCIA
Representative
First District, Oriental Mindoro

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INTEGRATED MULTI-PURPOSE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE ALAG AND DULANGAN RIVERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACO,
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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 "Alag-Dulangan Integrated Multi-Purpose Development Act of 2012".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State recognizes the extreme geophysical events with significant hydrological characteristics accompanied by large hazard of water excesses had caused adverse effects on the safety of the populace, the economy and the environment. In the face of the physical uncertainties brought about by climatic, geophysical and hydrological processes which bear strong influence on human activities in the upland through the lowland to the coastal areas of river basins, more effective development, control and management of water resources are deemed imperative. As typhoons are inevitable, the State should be able to strengthen its capacity to mitigate calamities they bring.

The State further recognizes the vital role of the Municipality of Baco and its People as one of the major contributors in the production of rice and tropical fruits such as banana, calamansi, coffee, and coconut, earning for the Province of Oriental Mindoro the monicker as as the "Food Basket of Southern Tagalog". The produce of Oriental Mindoro services Region IV, both the CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) and MIMAROPA (Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental, Romblon and Palawan), including the National Capital Region. With the advent of the Nautical Highway, the produce of the province now reaches the Visayas and part of Mindanao.

The Alag and Dulangan rivers are rich source of water to irrigate the fertile ricesfields in the uplands and lowlands. Immediately adjoining the Province's Capital, Calapan City, the Municipality of Baco serves as the vital link to Puerto Galera, the tourism capital of Oriental Mindoro. It is hereby declared the policy of the State that through the full and faithful implementation of this Act, to ensure the protection and safety of the lives and properties of the People of Baco in time of natural and man-made calamities, to enhance the development of water resources of the Alag and Dulangan Rivers, a renewable energy, into hydro-power with an estimated capacity of 39.5 Megawatts or more, and to irrigate the uplands and the lowlands devoted to agricultural production.

Section 3. **Formulation and Implementation of the Alag-Dulangan Integrated Multi-Purpose Development Plan.** - With the assistance of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and upon mandatory consultations with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and concerned sectors of the Province of Oriental Mindoro, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall formulate the Alag-Dulangan Rivers Integrated Multi-Purpose Development Plan. The DPWH, DOE, NIA and the concerned LGUs shall jointly implement the Alag-Dulangan Rivers Integrated Multi-Purpose Development Plan subject to regular consultations with and involvement of the community and other stakeholders in the implementation of the said plan.

Section 4. **Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the DPWH, the DOE and the NIA under the current General Appropriations Act or through various schemes such as Build Operate and Transfer (BOT), Build Operate and Own (BOO), Joint Venture (JV) and Public Private Partnership (PPP), and other development funds that could be made available for the purpose. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the completion, repair and maintenance of the Alag-Dulangan Integrated Multi-Purpose Development shall be included in the succeeding annual appropriations of the DPWH, the DOE and the NIA under the General Appropriations Act.

Section 5. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,