

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 381

Introduced by CHRISTOPHER S. CO and RODEL M. BATOCABE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

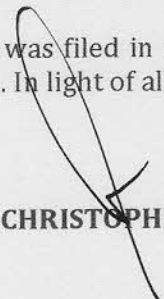
The passage of this bill seeks to address the nationwide problem of sanitation and waste dispersal by unifying and integrating agencies concerned in sanitation, and establishing institutional responsibility and capability for sustainable sanitation.

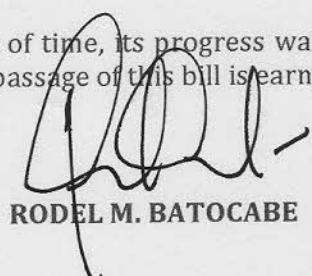
It responds to the mandate of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State is obliged to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. (Sect 15 and 16, Article II: Declaration of Principles and State Policies). Furthermore, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. (Section 11, Article XIII: Social Justice and Human Rights, Health)

UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on states and international organizations to provide financial resources, build capacity and transfer technology, particularly to developing countries, in scaling up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all. The Philippines recognizes the United Nations declaration that sanitation is a fundamental human right and is essential to public health and human development. In addition, it acknowledges the responsibility of the state to declare sustainable sanitation as a national policy and program priority.

Although the Department of Health reports that the population has gained greater access in sanitation, there is still a need to aggressively resolve this sanitation problem. It remains to be a grave concern as clearly observed not only during calamities but also in a day-to-day basis. A significant percent of the population still practice open defecation and negligent waste disposal. Much of said wastes are desludged into bodies of water causing its pollution. A substantial percent of reported diseases and deaths of the Filipino population is attributed to water pollution, sanitation conditions, and hygiene practices.

The bill was filed in the 15th Congress but for lack of time, its progress was halted at the committee level. In light of all these circumstances, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHER S. CO


RODEL M. BATOCABE

- 1) Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as the Chairman;
- 2) Secretary, Department of Health, (DOH)
- 3) Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 4) Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- 5) Chief, National Housing Agency (NHA);
- 6) Chairman, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB);
- 7) Chairman, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC);
- 8) Administrator, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA); and
- 9) Executive Director, National Water Resources Board (NWRB);

- A) Formulate a national plan, framework, and strategies for sustainable sanitation;
- B) Coordinate and integrate the activities and functions of the various government agencies, private institutions, and civic organizations to implement the policies set by the Council; and
- C) Oversee the implementation of national and local sustainable sanitation management in cooperation with stakeholders, service providers, and other concerned government units and entities.

Section 5. Organization of the Regional Level. The organization for coordination of operations in all local political and administrative subdivisions are prescribed as follows:

- A) The Regional Executive Director of the DENR as Chairman;
- B) The Regional Director, Centers for Health Development, as Vice-Chairman and Action Officer;
- C) Regional Director, DPWH;
- D) Regional Director, HLURB; and
- E) Head, Management Office of the NHA;

Section 6. Organization of the Local Government Level. The organization for coordination of operations in all local political and administrative subdivisions are prescribed as follows:

- F) The Metropolitan Manila Sanitation Councils shall be headed by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair. Its members shall be composed of all Metro Manila Mayors.
- G) The Provincial Sanitation Coordinating Councils shall be composed of the following:
 - 1) The Provincial Governor as Chairman;
 - 2) The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer as the Vice-Chairman and Action Officer;
 - 3) The Provincial Health Officer;
 - 4) The Provincial Engineer; and
 - 5) The Provincial Planning and Development Officer.
- H) The City/Municipal Sanitation Coordinating Councils shall be composed of the following:
 - 1) The City/Municipal Mayor as Chairman;
 - 2) The Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) shall be the Vice-Chairman and Action Officer of the Council;
 - 3) The City/Municipal Planning Officer;
 - 4) The City/Municipal Engineer;
 - 5) The City/Municipal Health; and
 - 6) The Water District (LWUA) General Manager.

Section 7. Rules and regulations. The National Sanitation Coordinating Council, shall promulgate and issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

6 Approved.

SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.