

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1850



Introduced by Hon. Jerry P. Treñas and Hon. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Decisive action is needed in order to abate the incessant floods in Metro Manila and in the various flood-prone areas all over the country. The government must be empowered to create and implement an effective and comprehensive flood management program which is supported by sufficient funding. This proposed measure aims to provide a lasting solution to the flood problems of the National Capital Region, its adjacent regions and the rest of the country by providing the needed appropriations to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the implementation of a nationwide flood management system.

This House Bill was originally filed by the late Congressman Erico B. Aumentado in the 15th Congress as HB 6469. The late Representative Aumentado filed the bill in response to the massive flooding experienced by Metro Manila and the rest of the country caused by Ondoy, Pepeng and the Habagay monsoon rains. He observed that "the country becomes vulnerable to massive flooding during typhoons, monsoon rains and occurrence of low pressure areas. These floods have caused tremendous loses of lives and properties wasting billions of pesos worth of destruction, and more so, in economic loses."

The 1987 Constitution provides that appropriation bills and legislative measures authorizing the increase of public debt must originate from the House of Representatives, to wit:

"All appropriation, revenue or tariff bills, bills authorizing increase of the public debt, bills of local application, and private bills, shall originate exclusively in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments."¹

The DPWH was created in its present form by Executive Order No. 124² of President Corazon C. Aquino while exercising her legislative powers under the Freedom Constitution. The DPWH was mandated to be the State's engineering and construction arm, with the responsibility

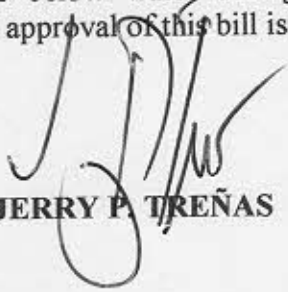
¹ Section 24, Article VI. 1987 Philippine Constitution

² EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 124 - REORGANIZING THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, REDEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (January 30, 1987)

of handling the planning, design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities, including flood control systems.³ The DPWH is therefore the appropriate government agency to implement the nationwide flood control program.

Massive flooding has already been accepted by most Filipinos as a fact of life. This mindset must be changed in order to find a lasting solution to this grave problem. This massive undertaking will require a substantial amount of money to be implemented. However, billions of losses will continue to hamper our economic growth every year if we do not have the political will to invest in a comprehensive flood mitigation program. The financial cost of the incessant flooding is staggering, and the loss of lives, cancellation of classes, disruption of commercial activity and severe traffic conditions caused by floods must also be taken into account.

We must act decisively in order to address this national problem. Otherwise, we will perpetually live below water during the rainy season and occurrences of severe weather conditions. The approval of this bill is therefore highly recommended.



JERRY P. TREÑAS



ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUMENTADO

³ Section 3, EO 124.

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**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MULTI-YEAR
FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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 "Public Works Flood Control Act of 2013".

Section 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is hereby mandated to operate and maintain the flood control facilities in Metro Manila and the entire Philippines.

Section 3. The DPWH shall prepare a master plan for effective and comprehensive flood management in the entire country up to the year 2040. The plan shall start for Metro Manila, Central Luzon, and the CALABARZON region.

Section 4. The DPWH shall also craft a master plan of flood controls for the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Section 5. The amount of Six Hundred Billion Pesos (P600,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the Public Works nationwide Public Works flood control program to be implemented on a multi year basis. The funds shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act annually, and as a complementary source, the DPWH shall tap the Official Development Assistance (ODA) of the Philippines' donor countries and institutions for concessional loans on long term repayment basis.

Section 6. The DPWH shall begin at the soonest possible time its program to develop a safe society that is resilient to floods and, with the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority Board, shall proceed forthwith to start sourcing funding for the preparatory task of the design and implementation of the priority projects with a total cost of Three Hundred Fifty Two Billion Pesos (P352,000,000,000.00) in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and CALABARZON region listed as follows:

- a. Marikina Large Dam plus improvements in the Pasig River, Napindan River and Marikina River embankments;
- b. The ring-road dike on the rim of Laguna de Bay, embankments and catch basins in the Marikina River watershed and an 8-kilometer dike and pumping stations in the CAMANAVA (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area;
- c. West Laguna Lake shore land raising;
- d. Manila core area drainage improvements;
- e. East Manggahan floodway and improvements in the Cainta and Taytay Rivers;
- f. Malabon-Tullahan River improvements;
- g. Meycauayan River improvements;
- h. Valenzuela-Obando-Meycauayan River improvements;
- i. Land raising for small cities around Laguna Lake and improvements of inflow rivers to Laguna Lake;
- j. South Parañaque-Las Piñas River improvements;
- k. West Manggahan area drainage improvements.

Section 7. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall also prioritize the flood control projects for the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, giving priority to the flood prone areas therein.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,