

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2009



Introduced by Congresswoman Lorna Quinto Velasco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

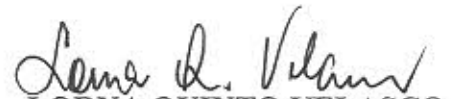
Clean water must be made available to every Filipino in the urban, rural areas or those in far-flung, remote, mountainous, or outlying coastal areas, to insure that the quality of life is uncompromised. Hygiene and proper sanitation is a natural requirement to promote the health and physical well-being of every Filipino. Also, the drastic climate change, the exponential increase in the population and the ever-rising cost of water supplied by the water utilities impose a great burden among our countrymen especially the marginalized. Thus, it is the paramount duty of the State to provide a conveniently available source of clean water for every Filipino. Hence, a program on a national scale that could provide adequate clean water supply for every barangay in the country should be the government's primordial concern.

Though R.A. No. 6716, otherwise known as "An Act Providing for the Construction of Water Wells, Rainwater Collectors, Development of Springs and Rehabilitation of Existing Water Wells in All Barangays in the Philippines" (hereinafter referred to as "R.A. No. 6716") was enacted on March 17, 1989, the same was ineffectively implemented during the duration of its period of execution. Due to the expiration of the period of implementation of said law, many barangays throughout the Philippines is still left without an adequate source of clean water.

This present bill seeks to address this over-riding concern. Since R.A. 6716 was only implemented for the period covering 1989-1992. Moreover, the development of springs and construction of rainwater collectors were not actively pursued and fully implemented during said term. Recently, the Department of Public Works and Highways reported that they have built rainwater collection systems during the past three (3) years or 2011-2013, and they yielded only 754 systems. This however, is not enough, to meet the clean water supply of the Filipinos in every district. Thus, there is a need to re-enact and extend the period of said law to provide additional sources of clean water to the Filipinos. To continue and revive this 3-year program to address the water shortage crisis

that continue to plague our country will help alleviate the plight of our countrymen for clean water.

Henceforth, the urgency of this bill to be enacted into law is eagerly sought.


LORNA QUINTO VELASCO

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER WELLS,
RAINWATER COLLECTORS, DEVELOPMENT OF SPRINGS AND
REHABILITATION OF EXISTING WATER WELLS IN ALL BARANGAYS IN
THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared to be the national policy to promote and uplift the quality of every Filipino's life through the provision of adequate clean water supply made conveniently available to every barangay in the country.

SECTION 2. Water Wells, Rainwater Collectors and Spring Development. — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall, within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act, undertake construction of water wells, rainwater collectors, development of springs and rehabilitation of existing water wells in all barangays in the Philippines in such number as may be needed and feasible, taking into consideration the population, hydrologic conditions, costs of project development and operations, financial and economic factors and institutional arrangements: provided, however, that the DPWH shall deduct not more than five percent (5%) for supervision, engineering, technical and other overhead expenses or fees: provided, further, that each barangay in the country shall have at least one additional clean water source.

SECTION 3. Operation and Maintenance. — In order to ensure the proper use of the water facilities herein provided, a Barangay Waterworks and Sanitation Association, herein referred to as BWSA, shall be formed and organized for the purpose of

maintaining the water facilities: provided, that pending the organization of the BWSA, the water facilities shall be operated and maintained by the barangay council.

The BWSA shall be composed of the member-consumers who shall administer, operate and maintain the completed water facility and shall be registered with the corresponding municipal or city council. The qualifications and compensation of each member-consumer of a BWSA shall be determined and approved by the Department of Interior and Local Government (hereinafter referred to as "DILG") through the local government unit concerned.

The minimal charges necessary for the maintenance and normal repairs of each water facility shall be recommended by the BWSA concerned and approved by the DILG. Nothing herein shall prevent any resident of the locality from using the water facility under the same terms and conditions as the member-consumers of the BWSA has promulgated. Such terms and conditions determined by the BWSA shall be submitted to the DILG for approval prior to implementation.

Organizing and training the recipient communities in the operation and maintenance of said water facilities shall be conducted by the DILG in coordination with the DPWH prior to the turnover of such facilities to each BWSA subject to the guidelines to be formulated by the DILG.

SECTION 4. Submission of Report. — The DPWH shall, within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (80) days thereafter, submit periodic reports to the respective Committees on Public Works and Highways of both Houses of the Congress of the Philippines for evaluation and consideration.

SECTION 5. Funding. — The sum needed for the implementation of the construction, rehabilitation and repair program shall be taken from any available appropriations for the DPWH in the General Appropriations Act (hereinafter referred to as "GAA") for 2013: provided, that funds for this purpose shall also be included in the GAA for 2014 and

2015: provided, further, that the total program shall be completed not later than December 31, 2016, and: provided, finally, that there shall be equitable and proportionate appropriations of annual funds for this purpose for all provinces, cities and municipalities. In addition, a portion of financial grants and concessional loans extended to the Philippines by foreign governments and multilateral agencies every year, in the amount to be determined by the President, shall be allocated by the Department of Budget and Management to augment the appropriations of the DPWH until one hundred thousand (100,000) water wells, rainwater collectors, and springs are completed as envisioned in this Act.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,