

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. No. 4528

Introduced by Congressman Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

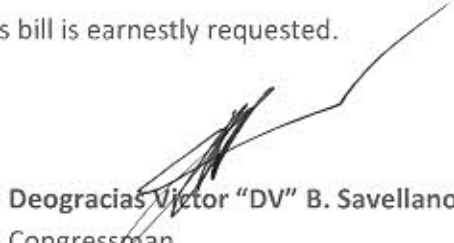
The recent catastrophic events caused by typhoons that brought misery and hardships to our people make it imperative to review and study existing laws, policies and programs governing the acts of offices and agencies tasked in the implementation of policies and programs governing water resources.

With a rapidly growing population whose requirement for water is growing just as fast, there is a need to rationalize the exploitation of this valuable resource. There are mature technologies that were not available in the past which when harnessed now could help in the protection, conservation and judicious use of water.

Rainwater is one water resource that has been least considered as major solution to our problems on potable water. It was ignored in the past largely due to the absence of information and priorities of past administrations. The huge volume of rainwater that falls on the earth's surface annually are largely unutilized ending up as run-offs in canals and rivers aggravating downstream flooding and claiming countless of lives, destroying properties and ruining livelihood in the process.

However, with billions of pesos in damages caused by torrential rains and flash-floods, it is important that a new strategy be installed and the agencies tasked to implement it could correspondingly respond with equipped efficiency. To harvest, store and utilize rainwater, it is important that a government body dedicated to the science of rainwater harvesting is hereby recommended thus this bill objective is the creation of the National Rainwater Harvesting Board. It is not only timely, but truly a judicious move towards the protection of the general welfare.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano
Congressman
1st District, Ilocos Sur

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AN ACT

CREATING THE NATIONAL RAINWATER HARVESTING BOARD UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF RAINWATER HARVESTING TECHNOLOGY AS A MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS BROUGHT ABOUT BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER PHENOMENA LIKE SUPER TYPHOONS AND THE *EL NIÑO* THAT ARE THE CAUSES OF DOWNSTREAM FLOODING, SEVERE DROUGHT AND OTHER PROBLEMS ON FRESH WATER, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. *Creation of a Rainwater Harvesting Board.* – The National Rainwater Harvesting Board is hereby created under the Office of the President which shall be composed of representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Governments and other agencies including representatives from local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs) and other stake holders in support to the government's water conservation measures;

SECTION 2. *Powers of the National Rainwater Harvesting Board.* – The National Rainwater Harvesting Board shall formulate its own rules and regulations for the successful and proper implementation of this order subject to the observation of existing laws;

SECTION 3. *Supervision and Support.* – The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall act as chair and shall exercise operational supervision and control over the National Rainwater Harvesting Board (NRHB) through a secretariat headed by an Executive Director appointed by the President, with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) of the Department of Agriculture and the PAGASA under the Department of Science and Technology providing technical support.

SECTION 5. *Funding.* – Funds for the operation of the National Rainwater Harvesting Board (NRHB) Secretariat shall be sourced from the Office of the President and from the mother agencies comprising the board and from gross receipts generated through its operation.

SECTION 6. *Repeal.* – All laws, orders, rules, regulations and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this law are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon approval.