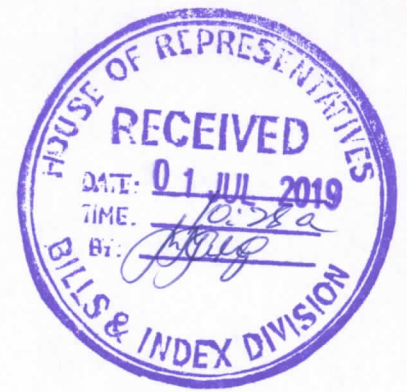


**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City**

**Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 0193



**Introduced by Representatives
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

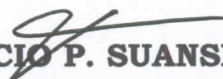
In 2015, the World Resources Institute issued a warning that the Philippines is vulnerable to severe water shortage in the coming years because of the combined impact of its rapid population growth and the effects of climate change. The water shortage is further aggravated by the fragmented and overlapping functions of water agencies in the country. The enactment of a feasible long-term solution for the protection of water is necessary to combat this threat.

This bill seeks to rationalize the management of water resources, sewage, and sanitation through the creation of the Department of Water Resources and Services. It shall set the policy for the preservation of water resources in the country, regulate its supply to ensure optimal use and devise ways and means for the long-term safety, protection and preservation of this very important natural resource. It will likewise manage sanitation and the services for the sewerages or drainage. It is also responsible for the building, maintaining and monitoring of water-related infrastructure to ensure quality, accessible and potable water; promoting and pushing for the adoption of acceptable international policies and best practices in water management to achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation.

A study by the World Water Organization shows that water supply in the Philippines is diminishing. The availability of affordable and safe drinking water and a working sanitation system is a basic necessity for all Filipinos which must be addressed. The lack of a holistic program for water resources management creates a perennial problem that seriously affects the lives of our citizens in terms of health, sanitation, food security and livelihood, which are indispensable for social and economic development.

To ensure Filipinos the benefit of this fundamental human right, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING
1st District, Nueva Ecija


REP. HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.
2nd District, Sultan Kudarat

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House of Representatives
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Eighteenth Congress
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House Bill No. 0193

Introduced by Representatives
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.

AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND SERVICES
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Water Resources Management and Rationalization Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall promote and protect the right of the people to safe, clean and affordable water as a basic human right. Further, the State recognizes that safe, clean and affordable drinking water and proper sanitation are essential to the full enjoyment by the people of life and the protection and sustainability of the environment. Towards this end, the State shall ensure that people have access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water and proper sanitation services and facilities.

In pursuit of this policy, the objectives of this Act are as follows:

a) Establish the basic principles and framework relating to the appropriation, control and conservation of water resources to achieve their optimum development and national utilization;

b) Implement programs for the attainment of universal access to safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply and sanitation services for all Filipinos, and adopt all necessary measures directed towards this end;

c) Promote international participation in the education and sharing of information to achieve universal access to water and sanitation, and the integration of water, energy, environment, and food security;

1 d) Strengthen and coordinate water resource planning and policy-
2 making to ensure sustainable and fair allocation and efficient use of water
3 resources between competing water uses and users, including domestic and
4 municipal use, irrigation, power generation, farming, fisheries, commercial
5 and industrial use;

6 e) Strengthen and coordinate policy and planning in relation to flood
7 control and flood risk management in order to plan, prevent, and reduce the
8 detrimental and catastrophic effects of flood waters;

9 f) Secure and regulate all public works in order to obtain the
10 highest efficiency and the most appropriate quality in construction and to
11 plan, design, construct and maintain infrastructure facilities in accordance
12 with national development objectives; and

13 g) Ensure the effective implementation of Republic Act No. 9275
14 otherwise known as the "*Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.*"

15 CHAPTER II

16 ORGANIZATION

17 SEC. 3. ***Department of Water Resources and Services.*** – There is hereby
18 established a Department of Water Resources and Services, hereinafter
19 referred to as the Department, to manage, control and protect water resources
20 for domestic purposes, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, fisheries,
21 aquaculture, flood control, recreation, and for the enhancement and
22 maintenance of water quality.

23 The following agencies or corporate entities are hereby transferred to
24 the Department from the authority of their current mother agencies or offices:

25 a) The National Water Resources Board (NWRB), which is currently
26 under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

27 b) The Local Water Utilities Administration, which is currently
28 under the Office of the President;

29 c) The National Irrigation Administration, which is currently under
30 the Office of the President; and

31 d) All other government agencies or offices that supervise/manage
32 inland water bodies such as the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the
33 Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, among others.

34 Likewise, the Department shall be responsible for the enforcement
35 functions of Republic Act No. 9275, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean
36 Water Act of 2004, as well as all the other water management functions of the

1 Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR.

2 The Department shall be organized within one hundred eighty (180)
3 days after the approval of this Act.

4 SEC. 4. ***Powers and Duties of the Department.*** – The Department shall
5 exercise the following powers and duties:

6 a) Formulate and develop policies to promote universal access to
7 safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water supply, and sanitation
8 services;

9 b) Manage and protect the water resources to ensure the optimal
10 use thereof for domestic water supply, sewage, sanitation, irrigation,
11 hydropower, navigation, flood control and recreation, including the
12 enhancement and maintenance of water quality, conservation of watersheds,
13 control of water pollution and environmental restoration, without
14 compromising the natural ecosystem functions and services;

15 c) Manage the ownership, appropriation, utilization, exploitation,
16 development, conservation and protection of water resources;

17 d) Formulate and enforce rules and regulations in the
18 administration and management of the water resources and implement rules
19 and guidelines for the enforcement of the laws on water;

20 e) Coordinate with relevant entities to provide policy directions,
21 strategies and targets to meet the goals and objectives of water supply, and
22 sanitation management by integrating the issues of safe water and sanitation;

23 f) Conduct continuing surveys and studies of renewable water
24 supply with a view towards formulating long-term policies to balance the
25 sustainability and optimal use of water resources, defining the hydrologic
26 boundaries of basins of the existing water supply sources, and creating and
27 implementing countrywide masterplans for water resources management and
28 development;

29 g) Undertake and coordinate with other agencies and government
30 entities in data gathering, scientific research and studies on water resources
31 management and development, and conduct nationwide hydrologic surveys
32 to determine the annual renewable water available per region;

33 h) Classify water quality standards for surface and ground water,
34 including establishing national standards for drinking water and wastewater;

35 i) Effect inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and inter-departmental

1 planning, data gathering, research and developmental studies on safe water
2 and sanitation and compel submissions of statistic and data on water
3 management with the aim of operationalizing the integrated approach to
4 water resources management;

5 j) Regulate and control the utilization, exploitation, abstraction,
6 diversion and development of water resources, taking into consideration its
7 equitable distribution, and determine the standards of beneficial and priority
8 uses of water in times of crisis and national emergencies;

9 k) Assist and provide the National Economic and Development
10 Authority (NEDA) with required data and inputs from and for the water sector
11 in the formulation of the short-term and long-term strategic development
12 plans and actions;

13 l) Coordinate with other relevant agencies and develop policies and
14 plans in respect of water resources used for farming, including sustainable
15 mechanisms for irrigation;

16 m) Study all plans, programs, or development projects, that affect
17 water resources, its diversion or abstraction, and the construction of
18 hydraulic facilities, including plans and projects in watershed or basin areas
19 of water supply sources, which have direct or indirect impact on the affected
20 locality's water resources;

21 n) Review from time to time regulations prescribed by any
22 government agency pertaining to water use, exploitation, development,
23 conservation, or protection of waters, water resources and watershed or basin
24 areas;

25 o) Authorize its representatives or any deputized agent to enter any
26 property of public dominion or any private land, building or enclave, whether
27 inhabited or not, for the purpose of conducting hydrologic surveys and
28 investigations, including assessing and evaluating the conditions of water
29 facilities installed and determining compliance with water laws and
30 standards;

31 p) Require local government units (LGUs) and national agencies to
32 submit zoning and land use management plans to ensure the integration of
33 water resource management plans. No zoning and land use plan shall become
34 effective and enforceable unless and until a certification of integration of
35 water, and sanitation resource management plan has been issued by the
36 Department;

37 q) Provide technical assistance to water, sewer and sanitation users,

1 including farmers and LGUs, whether directly or in coordination with other
2 agencies, to assist them in applying for water permits and providing data on
3 water and sanitation resource usage;

4 r) Provide integrated planning for flood control, flood risk
5 management and water resource development and management systems, and
6 other public works;

7 s) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may
8 be necessary to implement and enforce its powers and functions under this
9 Act;

10 t) Appoint, hire and maintain adequate staff and personnel,
11 advisers or consultants with suitable qualifications and experience, as maybe
12 necessary;

13 u) Exercise such other powers and functions necessary or incidental
14 or that which the President may assign to the Department to carry out the
15 objectives of this Act and for the effective administration and management
16 of water and sanitation;

17 SEC. 5. **Department Secretary, Powers and Functions.** – The authority
18 and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for
19 the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary of
20 the Department, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, who shall be
21 appointed by the President of the Philippines.

22 The Secretary shall exercise the following powers and functions:

23 a) Advise the President on the promulgation of executive or
24 administrative orders, regulations, proclamations and other issuances
25 relative to matters under the jurisdiction of the Department;

26 b) Establish the policies and standards for the operation of the
27 Department pursuant to the President's guidelines; and

28 c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
29 objectives, policies and functions of the Department.

30 No person shall be appointed Secretary unless the appointee
31 possesses extensive knowledge of public administration and has a minimum
32 ten (10) years of experience in the administration of water resources or
33 sanitation programs, preferably in a public agency.

34 SEC. 6. **Office of the Secretary.** – The Office of the Secretary shall be
35 composed of the Secretary and immediate staff.

1 SEC. 7. **Undersecretaries.** – The Secretary shall be assisted by not more
2 than three (3) Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon
3 the recommendation of the Secretary. The Secretary is hereby authorized to
4 delineate and assign the respective functional areas of responsibility of the
5 Undersecretaries with respect to the mandate and objectives of the
6 Department.

7 Within the functional area of responsibility, an Undersecretary shall
8 have the following functions:

9 a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and
10 implementation of Department policies, plans, programs and projects;

11 b) Supervise all the operational activities of the assigned units for
12 which the Undersecretary is responsible to the Secretary; and

13 c) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be
14 assigned or delegated by the Secretary to promote efficiency and effectiveness
15 in the delivery of public services or as may be required by this Act or other
16 laws.

17 The Undersecretaries must possess a working knowledge of public
18 administration and must have a minimum of seven (7) years of experience in
19 the administration of water or sanitation programs, preferably in a public
20 agency or with legal or financial knowledge of such programs.

21 The Undersecretaries shall exercise the powers and functions as
22 provided under Section 10, Chapter 2, Book IV of the Administrative Code of
23 1987.

24 SEC. 8. **Assistant Secretaries.** – The Secretary shall also be assisted by five
25 (5) Assistant Secretaries appointed by the President of the Philippines upon
26 the recommendation of the Secretary: one (1) for the Monitoring and
27 Information Service; one (1) for the Planning Service; one (1) for the
28 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service; one (1) for the Legal
29 Service; and one (1) for the Administrative and Manpower Management
30 Service.

31 The Assistant Secretaries must possess a working knowledge of public
32 administration and must have a minimum of five (5) years of experience in
33 the administration of water or sanitation programs, or other public works
34 programs.

35 The Assistant Secretaries shall perform such duties and functions as
36 may be assigned by the Secretary or provided for by law.

37 SEC. 9. **Organizational Structure.** – The Department shall be composed of

1 the following organizational units:

2 a) Department proper consisting of the Office of the Secretary, the
3 Offices of the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, the Administrative
4 and Human Resource Management Service, Monitoring and Information
5 Service, Planning Service, Comptrollership and Financial Management
6 Service and Legal Service;

7 b) The National Water Resources Board, whose mandate, powers
8 and functions are found in Presidential Decree No. 424, as amended;

9 c) The Local Water Utilities Administration, whose mandate, powers
10 and functions are defined in Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended;

11 d) The National Irrigation Administration, whose mandate, power
12 and functions are stated in Republic Act No. 3601, as amended and
13 Presidential Decree No. 552, as amended;

14 e) The Water Management Bureau, which is tasked to enforce and
15 implement Republic Act No. 9275 and all environmental laws related to water
16 management and conservation; and

17 f) Regional offices, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the
18 Secretary.

19 SEC. 10. ***Administrative and Manpower Management Service.*** – The
20 Administrative and Manpower Management Service of the Department is
21 responsible for providing the Department with services relating to human
22 resources development, personnel, records, facilities maintenance, medical
23 and dental, security, and property and procurement services. For such
24 purposes, it shall have the following functions:

25 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to internal
26 administration and human resources management;

27 b) Prepare and implement an integrated personnel plan that
28 includes provisions on merit promotions, performance evaluation, job
29 rotation, suggestions and incentive awards systems, and health and welfare
30 services;

31 c) Provide services related to human resources training, education
32 and development, including manpower, career planning and forecasting, and
33 development of indigenous training materials;

34 d) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and cost-effective
35 property procurement system and facilities and coordinate or otherwise
36 interface with relevant agencies, whether government or private, for the
37 purpose of developing or upgrading the system;

38 e) Secure and maintain necessary Department facilities, and
39 develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and effective security system
40 covering, among others, personnel, physical installations, equipment,

1 documents, and materials, including the conduct of security investigations;
2 f) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies for a more
3 efficient conduct of administrative processes;
4 g) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient records system;
5 h) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to the Department
6 proper, bureaus, and regional offices and, when requested, the government
7 agencies and corporations attached to the Department; and
8 i) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
9 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

10 SEC. 11. **Monitoring and Information Service.** – The Monitoring and
11 Information Service is responsible for providing the Secretary timely reports
12 on the status of various Department projects and activities and develop and
13 implement information programs for mass dissemination in coordination with
14 the appropriate government agencies.

15 The Monitoring and Information Service shall have the following
16 functions:

17 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to monitoring and
18 public information;
19 b) Develop and maintain a system for retrieving and processing
20 monitoring information on all projects and activities of concern to the
21 Secretary;
22 c) Provide accurate and timely status and exception reports to the
23 Secretary;
24 d) Generate monitoring reports for the President, the Cabinet, or for
25 any other purpose as required by the Secretary;
26 e) Develop and supervise the implementation of communications
27 programs to have relevant policies, programs, and plans of the Department
28 understood by the public;
29 f) Produce and supervise the dissemination of media materials in
30 line with national government public information programs;
31 g) Coordinate with the appropriate national government agencies
32 tasked with public information affairs; and
33 h) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
34 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

35 SEC. 12. **Planning Service.** – The Planning Service is responsible for
36 providing the Department with the capability to undertake infrastructure
37 development planning and programming. For this purpose, it shall have the
38 following functions:

39 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to infrastructure

1 planning;

2 b) Assist the Undersecretaries on all matters related to the specific
3 functions of the position;

4 c) Formulate strategies and priorities for infrastructure
5 development consistent with national development objectives and initiate or
6 undertake relevant surveys for development planning;

7 d) Formulate long-range, medium-term, and annual development
8 plans and programs for infrastructure, including flood control, water resource
9 development systems, and other public works projects, including phasing of
10 implementation and review and integrate land use plans with these water
11 development plans;

12 e) Identify priority packages for infrastructure development,
13 including flood control, water resource development systems, and other
14 public works projects, and undertake or supervise and evaluate the conduct
15 of feasibility studies and project preparation thereof;

16 f) Prioritize project implementation and the allocation of funds and
17 other resources and package project proposals for funding and
18 implementation;

19 g) Evaluate and appraise all regional interregional infrastructure
20 development plans and programs as to their feasibility and consistency with
21 approved strategies and long and medium-term plans;

22 h) Initiate regular Department-wide planning exercises and act as
23 the secretariat thereof;

24 i) Gather, analyze and organize needed statistical data and
25 information;

26 j) Provide technical assistance related to its functions to the other
27 services, bureaus and the regional offices as needed; and

28 k) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
29 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

30 SEC. 13. **Comptrollership and Financial Management Service.** – The
31 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service is responsible for
32 providing the Department with coordinated services relating to financial
33 systems and procedures, budget, cash, accounting and all financial
34 housekeeping matters. For such purposes, it shall have the following
35 functions:

36 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to the accounting of
37 government expenditures and receipts, budgeting and cash management,
38 project finances, and financial systems and procedures;

39 b) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget
40 authorizations, undertake budget execution, and prepare and submit all
41 appropriate reports to the proper offices;

1 c) Develop and maintain accounting, financial and assets
2 management systems, procedures and practices in the Department proper,
3 bureaus, and regional offices;

4 d) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the
5 Department and, when requested, to government corporations and councils
6 attached to the Department; and

7 e) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational
8 structure, assets management practices, accounting and other records,
9 reports and performance standards such as budgets and standard costs of
10 the Department proper, bureaus, and regional offices;

11 f) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
12 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

13 SEC. 14. **Legal Service.** – The Legal Service is responsible for providing the
14 Department with services on such legal affairs as contract letting and
15 litigation, legal and legislative research, complaints and investigation, legal
16 counseling, and other matters of law. For such purposes, it shall have the
17 following functions:

18 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to legal affairs;

19 b) Prepare Department contracts and legal instruments, review and
20 interpret all contracts and agreements entered into by the Department, and
21 evaluate all legal proposals;

22 c) Conduct administrative investigation as well as the review of
23 administrative charges against officers and employees of the Department;

24 d) Exercise functional jurisdiction over the legal staffs of regional
25 offices;

26 e) Provide legal assistance to the Department proper, the bureaus,
27 and regional offices and, when requested, the attached corporations; and

28 f) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
29 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

30 SEC. 15. **Regional Office.** – Regional offices shall be responsible for flood
31 control, water resource development systems and other public works within
32 their regional jurisdiction. For this purpose, their duties and responsibilities
33 shall be as follows:

34 a) Undertake and evaluate the planning, design, construction and
35 works supervision functions of the Department for the infrastructure projects
36 within the region;

37 b) Undertake the maintenance of the infrastructure within the
38 region and supervise the maintenance of such local infrastructure receiving
39 national government financial assistance as the Secretary may determine;

40 c) Ensure the implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules and

1 regulations regarding the infrastructure as well as all public and private
2 physical structures;

3 d) Provide technical assistance related to their functions to other
4 agencies within the region especially the local government;

5 e) Coordinate with other departments, agencies, institutions and
6 organizations, especially local government units within the region, in the
7 planning and implementation of infrastructure projects;

8 f) Conduct continuing consultations with the local communities,
9 take appropriate measures to make the services of the Department responsive
10 to the needs of the general public, compile and submit such information to
11 the central office, and recommend such appropriate actions as may be
12 necessary; and

13 g) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
14 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

15 The Department shall retain and have such project management offices
16 as may be required, which shall be under the supervision and control of the
17 appropriate regional director, unless otherwise determined by the Secretary
18 for reasons of supra-regional scope, magnitude and multi-functional
19 coverage.

20 SEC. 16. **Regional Director.** – The regional office shall be headed by a
21 regional director who shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively
22 carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the regional office. Towards
23 this end, the regional director shall, within the defined powers, exercise
24 functional and administrative supervision over district offices within the
25 region including the authority to commit their resources and personnel to
26 integrated regional water management and flood control and flood risk
27 management initiatives. The regional director shall also perform such other
28 related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the
29 Secretary or as may be required by law.

30 The regional director shall be assisted by one (1) assistant regional
31 director who shall exercise supervision the planning, project design,
32 evaluation and technical assistance functions of the regional office.

33 CHAPTER III

34 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

35 SEC. 17. **Interface with Other Sector Regulators.** –

36 a) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
37 shall continue to have the primary authority and responsibility for protecting
38 the environment and shall complement the Department's responsibility for

1 the conservation of water and related natural resources, including protecting
2 water bodies from waste and pollution. It shall continue to promulgate rules,
3 regulations, and standards in this regard. The Department shall coordinate
4 with the DENR with respect to the conservation of water resources.

5 b) The Department of Health (DOH) shall have primary authority
6 and responsibility for determining and enforcing drinking water quality and
7 sanitation standards. The Department shall coordinate with the DOH to
8 achieve an integrated approach for sanitation, including collection, treatment,
9 and evaluation of wastewater.

10 c) The Department shall share responsibility with the Department
11 of Public Works and Highways for wholly or primarily water-related public
12 works projects including flood control, water resources development,
13 sewerage, sanitation, and the harnessing and impounding of water. The
14 Secretaries of each department shall coordinate on the development of
15 evaluation criteria, as necessary, to determine proper allocation of public
16 works projects between the two departments.

17 d) The Department shall coordinate with the Department of
18 Agriculture to ensure agricultural development that reduces sources of long
19 term pollution for surface water and groundwater, and agricultural and
20 industrial economic development through irrigation, water recycling and
21 treating wastewater.

22 SEC. 18. ***Transfer of Rights and Obligations.*** – The Department shall, by
23 virtue of this Act, be subrogated to all the rights, and assume all the
24 obligations of the relevant parts of any government agency or unit whose
25 powers and functions have been transferred to the Department.

26 The transfer of powers and functions as indicated in the preceding
27 paragraph, as applicable, and agencies attached thereto, as herein provided
28 for, shall take effect within one hundred eighty (180) days after the effectivity
29 of this Act. The foregoing transfer of powers and functions shall include all
30 applicable funds, personnel, records, property, and equipment, as may be
31 necessary. All offices shall continue to function under their present mandates
32 until transition is effected as provided for under this Act.

33 All rights and obligations of said government agencies are hereby
34 transferred to and assumed by the Department and shall be acted upon in
35 accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit and
36 other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

37 SEC. 19. ***Separation from Service.*** – Employees separated from government
38 service as a result of this Act shall, within six (6) months from their separation
39 from the service, receive the benefits to which they may be entitled under
40 existing laws, rules, and regulations.

1 SEC. 20. **Funding.** – The sum of One hundred million pesos
2 (P100,000,000.00) shall be set aside from any available funds of the National
3 Treasury, and is hereby appropriated and authorized to be released, for the
4 organization of the Department and its initial operations.

5 Thereafter, funds sufficient to fully carry out the objectives, powers and
6 functions of the Department shall be included in the annual General
7 Appropriations Act.

8 The Department shall submit its annual budget, which shall include,
9 among others, detailed information on the compensation and benefits
10 received by their employees, to the Office of the President for approval.

11 SEC. 21. **Periodic Performance Evaluation.** – The Department is hereby
12 required to formulate and enforce a system of measuring and evaluating
13 periodically and objectively the performance of the Department and submit
14 the same annually to the President.

15 SEC. 22. **Prohibition Against Organizational Change.** – No change in the
16 organizational structure herein prescribed shall be valid except upon prior
17 approval of the President for the purpose of promoting efficiency and
18 effectiveness in the delivery of public services.

19 SEC. 23. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
20 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
21 shall remain in full force and effect.

22 SEC. 24. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of
23 instructions, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or
24 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this
25 Act are hereby revoked, repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

26 Accordingly, sub-sections 4(i) and 4(ee) of Republic Act No. 9275,
27 entitled "*Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004*," Section 1 of Executive Order No.
28 860, entitled "*Redefining the Composition and Powers of the National Water*
29 *Resources Board*," Series of 2010, Section 49 of Presidential Decree No. 198,
30 entitled "*Declaring a National Policy Favoring Local Operation and Control of*
31 *Water Systems; Authorizing the Formation of Local Water Districts and*
32 *Providing for the Government and Administration of such Districts; Chartering*
33 *a National Administration to Facilitate Improvement of Local Water Utilities;*
34 *Granting said Administration such Powers as are Necessary to Optimize Public*
35 *Service from Water Utility Operations, and For Other Purposes*," as amended,
36 and Executive Order No. 165, entitled "*Transferring the National Food*
37 *Authority, National Irrigation Administration, Philippine Coconut Authority, and*
38 *Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority to the Office of the President*," Series of 2014,

- 1 are hereby amended or modified accordingly to be consistent with this Act.
- 2 SEC. 25. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
- 3 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,