

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8066



INTRODUCED BY HON. DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Archipelago is endowed with thousands of River Basins characterized as major, principal and minor. It comprises the landscapes and landforms including the rivers and river systems from the ridges to the reefs in the coastal zones. In the area of land management, it is essential to note the various information parameters that can be obtained from the river basin. In fact, the Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plans of each identified major rivers in the country is vital in the thrust of the Local Government Units to establish its own Comprehensive Land Use Plans.

The programs of the National Government in relation to water resource management and other water initiatives should be in harmony with the existing approved plans in the various river basins. The lack of coordination and project prioritization from the concerned agencies will put the integrated plans to naught.

At present, it is worthy to note the existing issues and challenges besetting our river basins from its physical, ecological, hydrological, biological and institutional status. The National Greening Program (NGP) of the DENR has been of great help in the reforestation efforts of the government as mandated in the Executive Order No. 510 however, it would take some time to realize the fruits of the program. Meantime, the effort to stop illegal logging remains to be a perpetual challenge in the thrust of the government to improve vegetation in the upland area of the river basins.

In the area of water quality and waste management affecting our rivers and river systems, there is a need for a drastic policy shift and to empower the Barangay Local Government Units. Our rivers are polluted both by liquid and solid wastes from the industrial, mining and institutional sources. The lack of enforcement mechanism on the part of government to prosecute water polluters is a gargantuan tasks. The proposed creation of an Enforcement Bureau of DENR may be able help in addressing these issues.

Most of the major and principal river basins are all heavily silted thereby causing flooding during rainy and typhoon season. The DPWH is mandated to undertake plans and programs to mitigate floodings along the rivers and its flood plains.

There is a need to resolve the problems on river easement and to avert the proliferation of informal settlers along the river banks both in the rural and the urban rivers. The regulation of river navigation using boats and vessels with diesel-fed engines is also necessary.

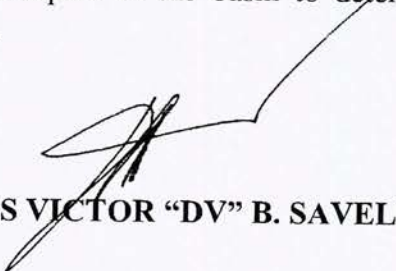
Pursuant to Executive Order No. 510 series of 2006 on the creation of the River Basin Control Office (RBCO) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Executive Order No. 816 series of 2009 declaring the RBCO as the Lead Government Agency for the integrated planning, management, rehabilitation and development of the country's river basins, an institutional mechanism is hereby established through the enactment of the Philippine River Basins Development Authority.

The importance of these river basins cannot be understated as they are considered as one of the life blood and drivers of the Philippine economy. Hence, they have to be managed sustainably. An integrated river basin management approach was applied in the preparation of the master plan for each river basin in line with the Philippine Development Plan. It is intended to address several concerns related to watershed conservation, river basin rehabilitation, flood control/mitigation, and water security for domestic, irrigation and industrial use, livelihood and economic opportunities in the area.

The DENR River Basin Control Office as the mandated agency to lead the implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management Framework envisions the country to have a sustainable water resource that meet the needs of the people by means of leading an interagency, multi-sectoral and multi-institutional partnership and linkages. There is a need for the institutionalization thru the creation of an Authority gears towards the continuous implementation and monitoring of the completed and endorsed Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plans (IRBMDMP).

Considering that the master plans for the 18 river basins had been formulated and approved by the late 2000's and with the passage of the Climate Change Act of 2009 and the Disaster Risk Reduction Law of 2010, the updating and formulation of a climate-responsive integrated master plans were undertaken.

In view of the on-going implementation of the River Basin Master Plans, the creation of the Philippine River Basins Development Authority (PRBDA) is hereby proposed. This proposed law aims to determine the extent of the implementation of the IRBMDMP and their impact on the social, economic and environmental aspect of the basin to determine how effective the Master Plan implementation on ground.



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AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RIVER BASINS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (PRBDA) PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE.

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

SECTION 1. TITLE. This act shall be known as the "*Philippine River Basins Development Authority*".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It shall be declared a policy of the State to pursue economic growth consistent with the conservation, protection, development and regulation of the country's water resources to achieve social development, economic progress and ecological stability. In view hereof, the State shall strengthen, integrate, consolidate and institutionalize government initiatives to achieve coordination in the implementation of plans and programs to address climate change in the context of sustainable development.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES. It is the purpose and objective of this Act:

- a. To institutionalize the PRBDA and its units providing a concrete structure and functions of the River Basin Management Offices (RBMOs) down to the CENRO level;
- b. To provide effective, climate-resilient and gender-responsive strategies for the sustainable management and development of the Philippine River Basins;
- c. To provide basis for the strategic planning, programming and budgeting of PAPs within river basin approach;
- d. To promote and harness stakeholder collaboration and cooperation through holistic efforts in conserving and protecting the river basin under the thematic areas namely; water resources, watershed, wetland, disaster risk reduction, economic and institutional development;
- e. To encourage other government agencies, Local Government Units (LGUs), civil society organizations, business sectors, corporations, academe and other stakeholders to take an active role in river basin management; and
- f. To maximize the use of public information and education on river basin management as a mechanism for active participation of the stakeholders.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. As used in this Order, the following terms shall be construed as follows:

- a. *Coastal and Wetland Resources Management* shall refer to the strategy that manages areas that are submerged or soaked by enough surface or groundwater to support ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, swamps, rice paddies, estuaries, lakes and reservoirs.
- b. *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management* shall refer to the systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster as well as dealing with the environmental and other hazards that trigger them.
- c. *Economic Development* shall refer to the process by which a state improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people.
- d. *Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity Management* shall refer to the conservation management and planning approach that organizes land, people, and other resources in the watershed to provide goods and services without harming the soil and water.
- e. *Integrated River Basin Management and Development (IRBMD) Master Plan* shall refer to a management and development plan formulated in a particular river basin with the application of an integrated river basin management approach intended to address several concerns related to watershed conservation, river basin rehabilitation, flood control/ mitigation, and water security for domestic, irrigation and industrial use, livelihood and economic opportunities in the area.
- f. *Major River Basin* shall refer to river basin area of more than 1,000sq.km.
- g. *Principal River Basin* shall refer to river basin area of 1,000sq.km. and below.
- h. *River Basin* shall refer to an area drained by a river and all of its tributaries. A river basin is made up of many different watersheds.
- i. *River Basin Project Management Office (RBPMO)* shall refer to a planning, monitoring and coordinating office in the regional level.
- j. *River Basin Project Management Unit (RBPMU)* shall refer to a planning, monitoring and coordinating unit within the PENR and CENR Offices.
- k. *River Basin Organization (RBO) or River Basin Management Council (RBMC)* shall refer to a decision-making body or organization for basin-wide integrated river basin management.
- l. *Water Resources Management* shall refer to the sustainable management of fresh water as an economic and public good while recognizing its vulnerability and limited supply.

SECTION 5. PHILIPPINE RIVER BASINS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. THE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS.

- 1) Rationalize the various existing river basin projects such as but not limited to the following: namely: Mt. Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation, Iloilo Flood Control, Lower Agusan Flood Control, Bicol River Basin and Watershed Management, Agno River and Allied-Rivers Flood Control, KAMANAVA Flood Control and the Pasig River Rehabilitation:
- 2) Develop a National Master Plan for Flood Control by integrating the various existing river basin projects and developing additional plan component as needed in coordination with other government agencies; developing additional plan component as needed in coordination with other government agencies;

- 3) Rationalize and prioritize reforestation in watersheds such as but not limited to the watersheds of Pampanga and Bicol Rivers;
- 4) Implement and operationalize the creation of River Basin Organizations in the major and priority river basins in the country supporting the PRBDA management and administration of the country's river basins;
- 5) Spearhead in the creation and networking of an Integrated Database Management Information System covering all the data parameters in the water sectors;
- 6) Implement functions and mandates outlined in the Integrated River Basin Development and Management Master Plan as approved;
- 7) Rationalize and integrate all national plans, projects and programs within the country's river catchment basins, with the authority to serve as the oversight office of all various government agencies and corporations with relevant and related river basin initiatives, projects and programs such as, but not limited to, river basin infrastructure development, flood control, environmental protection and integrated water resources management. To this end, such government agencies and corporations shall coordinate their planned and ongoing river basin initiatives with the PRBDA, to which the PRBDA shall review and endorse approval and funding from the national budget thereof, as may be provided under existing laws, rules and regulations;
- 8) Harmonize All Relevant National River Basin Policies and Formulate New Policies and Create Enabling Policy Environment That Shall Allow Effective and Efficient Management and Governance of the Country's River Basins. To this end, the national government agencies and corporation shall consult with the PRBDA in such planning and implementation, and have the PRBDA as Ex-Officio Member in the policy steering or project implementing boards as may be established therefor;
- 9) Serve as the National Policy Coordination Office for local government units and non-governmental organizations in the development and sustainability of all river and catchment basins, for which the PRBDA shall recommend the approval and funding thereof of national government agency and corporations' support to such local and non-government river and catchment basin initiatives;
- 10) Serve as the DENR's Implementing Office in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of DENR's programs and projects within the country's river basins which include but not limited to water quality management, potable water systems, agricultural irrigation, sanitary interventions, hydropower generation projects, river quarrying and dredging, river rehabilitation and enhancement, flood control, forecasting and mitigation initiatives, ecotourism and recreation activities, economic livelihood programs and navigation;
- 11) Serve as Central Fund Administrator for river basins appropriation provided under the DENR's budget that shall allow a more rationalized and optimized management of government public spending; and

- 12) Serve as the government's Central River Basin Database Management Agency, to which all government agencies and existing river basin organizations with relevant mandates and developmental initiatives within the river basins are required to cooperate and regularly submit their updated databases for integration and consolidation by PRBDA using a River Basin Integrated Information Management System.

SECTION 6. LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE. The Principal Office of the Philippine River Basins Development Authority shall be at the DENR Central Office, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

SECTION 7. THE CORPORATE POWER OF THE PRBDA. The Authority has the following Corporate Powers.

- a. To succeed on its corporate name;
- b. To sue and be sued in such corporate name;
- c. To adopt. Alter and use a corporate seal;
- d. To adopt, amend and repeal its by-laws;
- e. To undertake activities that will strategically explore, exploit, extract and develop the economic potentials of the Major and Principal Rivers Basins in the Philippines in ways that are environmentally friendly and not competitive with the private sector;
- f. To enter into contracts of any kind and description , to enable it to carry out its purpose and function under this act;
- g. To acquire but, purchase, hold or lease such personal and real property as it deems it necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business and/or in relation to carrying out its purposes under this Act, and to lease, mortgage and alienate or otherwise encumber. utilize, exploit or dispose such personal and real property held by it subject to prior or existing individual or communal right of private parties or of the government or any agency or enterprise thereof;
- h. To exercise the power of eminent domain whenever the Authority deems it necessary for the attainment of its objectives;
- i. To borrow funds from any local or foreign financial institution to carry out the purposes of the Authority under this Act;
- j. To issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectively carry out the power and purposes herein provided including plans, program, projects of the Authority subject to the approval of the Office of the President;
- k. To perform any other lawful acts to further the objectives of the Authority.

SECTION 8. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The PRBDA Board shall be composed of the following:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|
| a. Secretary of the DENR | - | Chairman |
| b. Secretary of DPWH | - | Vice Chairman |
| c. Secretary of DA | - | Member |
| d. Secretary of DOST | - | Member |
| e. Secretary of DND | - | Member |
| f. Secretary of DOE | - | Member |
| g. Secretary of DILG | - | Member |
| h. Secretary of NEDA | - | Member |
| i. Secretary of DOTr | - | Member |
| j. Secretary of DOT | - | Member |

- k. Executive Director, PRBDA - Ex-Officio Member

SECTION 8. THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In line with the thrust of the government to protect and conserve our water resources and to institutionalize the integrated water resource management for all sectors concerned, it is hereby proposed to revitalize the River Basin Control Office (PRBDA). It shall remain to be under an Undersecretary, to be assisted by an Executive Director and a Deputy Executive Director. The PRBDA shall be composed of an Operations Division, a Technical Division, and a Management Support Division described below:

THE OPERATIONS DIVISION. This Division shall be composed of three (3) Sections namely:

1. RIVER BASIN AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SECTION (RBWMS):
Functions and Responsibilities

The River Basin and Watershed Management Division (RBWMS) shall provide the over-all direction, control and supervision in the implementation of policies, plans and programs for the protection, conservation and management of the country's watershed and river basin environment. The section shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best practices and strategies and establishment of mechanisms for optimum watershed and river basin management.

The section shall be comprised of but not limited to the following Technical Units:

a) Watershed Management; b) River Basin Management; and c) Flood Mitigation and Disaster Management. It shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate and implement plans, programs and strategies for watershed and river-basin environment;
- Document field experience/lessons learned and recommend best practices and strategies related to watershed and river basin management, flood mitigation and disaster management;
- Coordinate, integrate, monitor and evaluate both local and foreign-funded DENR programs, projects and activities related to the watershed and river basin sector, flood and water-related disaster management and rainwater harvest;
- Consolidate accomplishments and all forms of reports and documents concerning watershed and river basin environments;
- Conduct watershed and river basin studies; investigations and assessments;
- Review and recommend revision of watershed and river basin policies;
- Review standards and benchmarks related to watershed and river environments;
- Identify responsibilities and commitments in relation to international conventions, treaties and protocols and recommend official position on issues concerning watershed and river basins;
- Establish linkage with other information networks;
- Conduct and ensure effective rehabilitation of watersheds and river basin;
- Perform other functions/activities.

2. WATER ENGINEERING AND HYDROGEOLOGY MANAGEMENT SECTION (WEHMS):

Functions and Responsibilities

The Water Engineering and Hydrogeology Management Section (WEHMS) shall provide the over-all direction, control and supervision in the implementation of policies, plans and programs for engineering geology, hydrogeology, waste water management and water-related hazards and protection, conservation and management of the country's urban aquifers, hydrological cycles and groundwater resources. The Division shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best practices and strategies and establishment of mechanisms for optimum engineering and urban geological standards, hydro-geological and groundwater resources management.

The WEHMS shall be comprised of but not limited to the following units: **a) Hydraulics and Drainage; b) Groundwater and Geophysics; and c) Engineering and Urban Water Management.** The section shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate plans, programs and strategies for the engineering and hydrogeological resources, waste water management, environmental engineering and groundwater management;
- Conduct, coordinate, integrate, monitor and evaluate both local and foreign-funded DENR programs, projects and activities related to the water-related hazards, river hydraulics, engineering geology, hydrogeology, geophysics, urban geology, groundwater well developments and drilling;
- Document and collate all issues, experiences, lessons and best practices and strategies related to water engineering, hydrogeological survey, waste water management, groundwater resources management, well developments and aquifer utilization;
- Review and revise standards and benchmarks related to hydrological regimes, groundwater use, developments and construction of groundwater wells;
- Review and recommend revision of waste water and groundwater policies;
- Consolidate and collate all forms of reports, document, literature and information concerning water engineering, water related hazards, waste water, urban water management hydrogeology, groundwater and well developments;
- Conduct and ensure effective and efficient installation and construction of groundwater monitoring wells;
- Conduct and ensure rehabilitation of drainage ways and esteros;
- Provide technical assistance to LGUs and other entities on rainwater harvesting, river hydraulic studies, engineering geology, urban geology, hydro-geological studies, geophysical investigations, waste water treatment, groundwater well developments, water supplies and small water impoundments project (SWIP);
- Perform other functions/activities.

3. COASTAL AND INLAND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SECTION (CIWRMS):

Functions and Responsibilities

The Coastal and Inland Water Resources Management Section (CIWRMS) shall provide the over-all direction, control and supervision in the implementation of policies, plans and programs for the protection, conservation, and management of country's coastal, wetlands and freshwater ecosystems. The CIWRMS shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best practices and strategies and establishment of mechanisms for optimum coastal and freshwater resources management.

The CIWRMS shall be comprised of but no limited to the following units: **a) Coastal Zone Management; b) River Management; and c) Lakes and other Wetlands Management.** The Section shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate plans, programs and strategies for the resource management of coastal, wetland (e.g marshes, swamps) and freshwater (e.g lakes and rivers) ecosystems;
- Document and collate all issues, experiences, best lessons and practices of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM);
- Conduct, coordinate, integrate, monitor and evaluate both local and foreign-funded DENR programs, projects and activities related to coastal, wetlands and freshwater ecosystems;
- Review standards and benchmarks related to coastal, wetlands and freshwater ecosystems including small islands, foreshore, neritic zones and shallow marine sanctuaries;
- Identify responsibilities and commitments in relation to international conventions (e.g. RAMSAR Conventions), treaties and protocols and recommend official position on issues concerning coastal, wetlands and freshwater ecosystems;
- Review and recommend revision of policies on coastal, wetlands and freshwater resource management;
- Perform other related functions and activities

THE TECHNICAL DIVISION. The Technical Division is composed of four sections namely:

1. RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT SECTION (RPDS):

Functions and Responsibilities

The Research and Policy Development Section (RPDS) shall provide the over-all direction and technical assistance in the implementation of policies, plans and programs for water research and technology generation, and policy development. The section shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best practices and strategies and the establishment of a rationale water policies for adoption.

The section shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate plans, programs and strategies for water research;
- Develop and conduct water research and relevant training programs on water resource management;
- Capacitate LGUs, regional and field implementers on effective integrated water resources management;
- Coordinate, collate and disseminate documents, literature, technologies and information materials pertaining to water resources;
- Develop policy and disseminate approved policy and advocacy materials, newsletter, journal and guidebooks on water resources;
- Perform other related functions/activities

2. PLANNING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SECTION (PPDS):

Functions and Responsibilities

The Planning and Project Development Section (PPDS) shall provide the over-all planning and project management in the implementation of policies and programs. The section shall facilitate in the identification and adoption of best planning and project management practices. The division shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate strategies for planning and project management matters;
- Facilitate and ensure effective implementation for all plans, programs, projects and strategies;

- Develop database and decision support mechanism for planning and project management purposes;
- Coordinate, collate and disseminate documents, literature and information materials pertaining to planning and project management;
- Develop and disseminate policy and advocacy materials, newsletter, journal and guidebooks on planning and project management matters;
- Perform other related functions/activities.

3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION:

Functions and Responsibilities

The Water Information Technology Section (WITS) shall provide the over-all direction and technical assistance in the implementation of policies, plans and programs for water information. The Division shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best practices and strategies and the establishment of national water information network (NWIN). The section shall be comprised of but not limited to the following technical sections: a) Electronic and System Development; b) Network and Data Bank; c) Maintenance and Services. The Section shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate plans, programs and strategies for water information;
- Establish and maintain a National Water Information Network (NWIN);
- Facilitate, coordinate, integrate, monitor and evaluate both local and foreign-funded DENR programs, projects and activities related to water research, water information, databanking, and decision support system;
- Develop and conduct water research and relevant training programs on water resources management;
- Capacitate LGUs, regional and field implementers on effective integrated water resources database management;
- Coordinate, collate and disseminate documents, literature and information materials pertaining to water resources;
- Perform other related functions/activities.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION SECTION

Functions and Responsibilities

The section shall provide over-all directions and technical assistance in the implementation monitoring and evaluation of the implemented projects and programs of the PRBDA. The section shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best practices and strategies for effective and efficient Monitoring and Evaluation activities.

The section shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate plans, programs and strategies for water project monitoring and evaluation;
- Establish and maintain a responsive and effective M/E plan;
- Facilitate, coordinate, integrate, monitor and evaluate both local and foreign-funded DENR programs, projects;
- Coordinate, collate and report output of M/E activities for improvement of project strategies;
- Perform other related functions/activities

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT DIVISION. The division shall be composed of two sections, namely:

1. FINANCE MANAGEMENT SECTION:

Functions and Responsibilities

The Finance Management Section (FMS) shall provide the over-all direction and assistance in the implementation of policies, plans and programs for budget and finance. The section shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best budget and finance management practices and strategies. The section shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate plans, programs and strategies for budget and finance;
- Facilitate control and supervise funding, expenditure outlay, financing and monetary matters;
- Develop budget and finance database and decision support mechanism;
- Coordinate, collate and disseminate document, literature and information materials pertaining to budget and finance;
- Develop and disseminate policy advocacy materials, newsletter, journal and guidebooks on budget and finance;
- Perform other related functions/activities

2. ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION (AS):

Functions and responsibilities

The Administrative Section (AS) shall provide the over-all administrative direction and general services in the implementation of policies, plans and programs. The section shall facilitate the identification and adoption of best administrative management practices and services. The section shall be responsible for the following functions and responsibilities:

- Formulate plans, programs and strategies for administrative matters;
- Facilitate, control and supervise all procurement and safe-keeping of official supplies, materials, properties and equipment;
- Develop database and decision support mechanism for administrative purposes;
- Coordinate, collate and disseminate documents, literature and information materials pertaining to purchases, procurements, bids, awards and other administrative matters.

PHILIPPINE RIVER BASINS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (Central Office) PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1	Director IV	(SG-28)
1	Legal Officer V	(SG-25)
1	Secretary III	(SG-10)
1	Clerk IV	(SG-8)
1	Driver III	(SG-8)

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1	Director III	(SG-27)
1	Clerk IV	(SG-8)
1	Driver III	(SG-8)

OPERATIONS DIVISION

1	Chief, Division	(SG-24)
1	Clerk III	(SG-6)

River Basin Management Section

1	Project Dev't. Officer III	(SG-18)
2	Project Dev't. Officer II	(SG-15)
2	Project Dev't. Officer I	(SG-11)

Water Engineering Section

1	Engineer III	(SG-19)
2	Engineer II	(SG-16)
2	Project Dev't. Officer I	(SG-11)

River Protection and Development Section

1	Project Dev't. Officer III	(SG-18)
1	Engineer II	(SG-16)
1	Project Dev't. Officer I	(SG-11)

TECHNICAL DIVISION

1	Project Dev't. Officer V	(SG-24)
1	Clerk III	(SG-6)

Planning and Project Development Section

1	Planning Officer III	(SG-18)
2	Planning Officer II	(SG-15)
2	Project Dev't. Officer I	(SG-11)

Information Technology Section

1	Project Dev't. Officer III	(SG-18)
1	Project Dev't. Officer II	(SG-16)
1	Engineer II	(SG-16)

Monitoring and Evaluation Section

1	Project Dev't. Officer III	(SG-18)
1	Project Dev't. Officer II	(SG-16)
1	Engineer II	(SG-16)

Research and Policy Development Section

1	Senior Science Research Specialist	(SG-18)
1	Science Research Specialist	(SG-16)
1	Science Research Assistant	(SG-12)

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT DIVISION

1	Chief Administrative Officer V	(SG-24)
1	Clerk III	(SG-6)

Finance Section

1	Budget Officer III	(SG-18)
1	Accountant III	(SG-15)
1	Cashier III	(SG-15)

Administrative Section

1	Administrative Officer III	(SG-18)
1	Human Resources Management Officer III	(SG-18)
2	Administrative Officer II	(SG-14)
1	Human Resource Management Officer II	(SG-14)
1	Records Officer II	(SG-14)
1	Supply Officer II	(SG-14)
4	Driver II	(SG-4)

Total Number of Personnel:

60

REGIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

Relative to the funding and implementation of the formulated and approved Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plans (IRBMDMP), an Ad Hoc Office shall be established for the following Offices:

1. **Regional River Basin Project Management Office** shall be established as an Ad Hoc Office under the Office of the Assistant Regional Executive Director for Technical Services to be headed by a qualified personnel designated by the Regional Executive Director through a Special Order.
2. **PENRO River Basin Project Management Unit** shall be established as an Ad Hoc Office under the Office of the Technical Services Division to be headed by a qualified personnel designated by the Regional Executive Director through a Special Order.
3. **CENRO River Basin Project Management Unit** shall be established as an Ad Hoc Office under the Office of the CENR Officer to be headed by a qualified personnel designated by the Regional Executive Director through a Special Order.

The RBPMO / RBPMU shall be responsible for, but not limited for the following:

- a. Facilitate in the implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plan of their River Basin;
- b. Integrate various river basin programs and projects implemented by the stakeholders within the River Basin/s;
- c. Provide technical assistance to stakeholders and LGUs in the formulation of local policy and plan on sustainable ENR management/ development as well as in the implementation of ENR laws, rules and regulations that are within their mandate;
- d. Lead in the establishment of River Basin Integrated Information Management System (RBIIMS) and maintain the database of all records and statistics for the efficient management and monitoring of the river basin;
- e. Promote appropriate activities related to the river basin management such as the encouragement of environmental investments, the establishment of institutional mechanisms, ensuring sustainability, the conduct of workshops, conferences and training and information, education and communication activities;

- f. Oversee and monitor development activities, programs and projects introduced or implemented by the government agencies and private sector concerning the conservation, development, protection, rehabilitation of the River Basin in the Region;
- g. Facilitate and assist in the conduct of Executive Committee, Technical Working Group and Council Meetings for the information and implementation of the Master Plan; and
- h. To provide any other assistance that could lead to smooth and effective implementation of the river basin projects and activities.

SECTION 9. CREATION OF THE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (RBMC).

To support the PRBDA, the River Basin Management Council for every identified River Basin with approved IRBMDMP are hereby created with the assistance of the DENR-Regional Support Offices as Secretariat. The PRBDA shall initiate the formulation of a uniform Manual of Operations to be used by all the RBMCs as a written guideline on its day-to-day administration and management which shall form part of the Implementing Rules and Regulation of this Act.

1. Cagayan RBMC
2. Mindanao RBMC
3. Agusan RBMC
4. Pampanga RBMC
5. Agno RBMC
6. Abra RBMC
7. Bicol RBMC
8. Apayao-Abulug RBMC
9. Tagum-Libuganon RBMC
10. Ilog-Hilabangan RBMC
11. Panay RBMC
12. Tagoloan RBMC
13. Ranao (Agus) RBMC
14. Davao RBMC
15. Cagayan de Oro RBMC
16. Jalaur RBMC and
17. Buayan-Malungon RBMC
18. Other Principal River Basins

SECTION 10. FUNCTIONS OF THE RBMC. The RBMC shall be the Governing Body of the River Basins. It shall formulate policies, approve plans and provide oversight function on the implementation of the IRBMDMP. Specifically, the RBMC shall have the following the functions:

- a. Harmonize the activities of all local government units and national government agencies as well as the efforts of civil society groups to undertake a multi-

- sectoral Integrated River Basin Management and Integrated Water Resources Management;
- b. Facilitate or cause the collection, processing and dissemination of data including maps on land and water resources as quantitative inputs to decision support systems that the body may utilize for decision-making on water resources and river basin programs and projects;
 - c. Promote broader multi-stakeholder participation and involvement in water resources and river basins by providing necessary mechanism to improve governance thereof;
 - d. Initiate the review of water resource and river basin management policies relative to water quality management, potable water systems, agricultural irrigation, sanitary interventions, hydropower generation projects, river quarrying and dredging, flood control, forecasting and mitigation initiatives, ecotourism and recreation activities, economic livelihood programs and navigation, and recommend appropriate amendments to harmonize them with the River Basin Master Plans for consideration and possible adoption by the concerned agencies and appropriate bodies;
 - e. Lead in the sourcing and mobilization of financial assistance from external sources (international and local) for the implementation of PAPs; and
 - f. Provide a venue for complementation and collaboration with other river basin and water-related bodies/ councils for the harmonization of their plans and programs.

SECTION 11. STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITIONS OF THE RBMC

The RBMC shall be headed by a Chairperson supported by a Co-chair and Vice-Chair elected from the regional government agencies which includes but not limited to:

1. Regional Executive Director, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
 - a. Regional Director, Environment Management Bureau
 - b. Regional Director, Mines and Geoscience Bureau
2. Regional Director, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
3. Regional Director, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)
4. Regional Director, Department of Agriculture (DA)
 - a. Regional Representative, Bureau of Soil and Water (BSW)
 - b. Regional Representative, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
 - c. Regional Representative, National Irrigation Administration (NIA)
5. Regional Director, Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
 - a. Regional Representative, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
6. Regional Director, Department of Transportation (DOTr)
7. Regional Director, Department of Tourism (DOT)
8. Regional Director, Office of Civil Defense (OCD-DND)

9. Regional Director, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
 - a. Regional Representative, League of Provinces
 - b. Regional Representative, League of Cities / Municipalities
 - c. Regional Representative, League of Barangays
10. Regional Representative, Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
11. Regional Representative, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA)
12. Regional Representative, National Water Resources Board (NWRB)
13. Representative, Manila Water and Sewerage System (MWSS) for NCR,
14. Representative, Civil Society Organizations(to be determined by the RBMC)
15. Representative, Business Sector (to be endorsed by DTI Regional Director)
16. Representative, Academe/SUCs, (to be endorsed by CHED Regional Director)
17. Other Stakeholders within the River Basin (to be determined by the RBMC)

The Executive Director of the PRBDA shall be an Ex-Officio Member of all the RBMCs. The RBMC shall create Sub-Councils/ Committees and Technical Working Groups (TWG) as may be necessary to discharge its functions effectively. The head of the sub-council and TWG shall be elected by the members through voting election process. The TWG shall have an organizational structure necessary to fulfill its functions in the review and implementation of the IRBMD Master Plan.

The RBMC shall have a Secretariat composed of the River Basin Support Staff of the DENR Regional Offices. The Secretariat shall provide a variety of coordinative functions and services in the organizational operations, fund sourcing and information dissemination and database management.



Figure 2. River Basin Management Council Structure

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION. The sum of Two Hundred Fifty Million (P250,000,000.00) shall be set aside from the National Budget to fund the creation and operation of the Philippine River Basins Development Authority.

Section 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remaining portions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. All laws, rules, regulations and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 15. EFFECTIVITY. This Act takes effect 15 days from the completion of publication.

Approved,