

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL No. 10725



Introduced by Representative **DEOGRACIAS VICTOR B. SAVELLANO**

AN ACT

MANDATING FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTER-AGENCY BODY THAT WILL PROPOSE, FORMULATE, DRAFT AND DIRECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN TO ADDRESS AN IMMINENT WATER CRISIS PROVIDING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS TO CALL ON ANY GOVERNMENT BODY AND PRIVATE SECTOR AGENCIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create of an inter-agency body that will propose, formulate, draft and direct the implementation of a comprehensive master plan to address an imminent water crisis providing its powers and functions to call on any government body and private sector agencies to contribute to the solutions to the crisis.

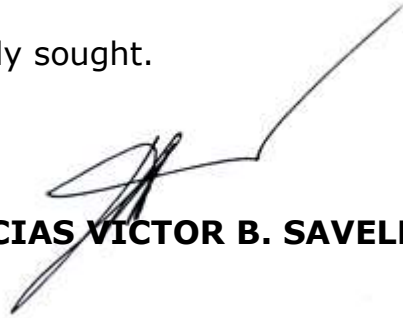
Over the past two decades, the country has variously experienced water shortages that impacted households, communities and the nation. Given the vital importance of water to the everyday lives of households, enterprises and businesses, leaders of the nation should be alarmed and should act today to avert a devastating water shortage.

Even with the La Niña season when there is supposed to be an abundance of water supply, the nation, particularly the National Capital Region (NCR) experiences water shortages that adversely impact on communities and business operations.

The situation is made worse by the onset of the El Niño phenomenon where traditional water sources dry up and or become limited in its capacity to

supply the water needs of a continuously growing metropolis. While water rationing is a stop-gap solution, a long-term solution that will assure a sustainable supply of clean, potable water must be put in place urgently. Hence this bill.

The approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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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 Comprehensive Water Crisis Solutions Act of 2022*".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the State to effectively ensure a long-term sustainable and viable supply of adequate clean potable water for the present and the future generation.

It is also the declared policy of the State to assure the sustainability of water resources that are vital to the people and the economy and most importantly for national survival.

It shall be the declared policy of the State to enlist the various instruments of the State and of the private sectors to attain this ideal situation of continuous water supply.

Section 3. Creation of an Inter-Agency Body. An Inter-Agency Body is hereby created with the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources as Chairman and the Secretaries of Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Finance, Budget and Management, National Defense and Interior and Local Government as members.

Two representatives from the private sectors shall complete the composition of the body.

Section 4. Mandate of the Inter-Agency Body. The following shall be the powers and functions of the Inter-Agency Body:

- a. Draft and formulate a comprehensive Master Plan and oversee its implementation and through monitoring, make an evaluation of the viability of a water crisis mitigation development plan;
- b. Call on any instrumentality or agency of the government including the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the local water resources board, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and the private concessionaries to assist in attaining the goals of the Inter-Agency Body;
- c. Enter into any agreement or contract with any and all entities that could help attain its goals including financial institutions and bodies;
- d. Recommend to the President any measure that could facilitate the achievement of the purposes for which it is created; and
- e. Exercise other powers and functions that may be necessary.

Section 5. Funding. The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100 million) shall be allocated for the program. There after such amounts that may be required shall be provided in the Annual General Appropriations under the Office of the President.

Section 5. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any part of provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts of provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,