

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3086



Introduced by Hon. **ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It shall be the policy of the State to accelerate agricultural development by optimizing the use of resources such as soils and water with the end in view of attaining food security for domestic use and expanding/diversifying agricultural production for export.

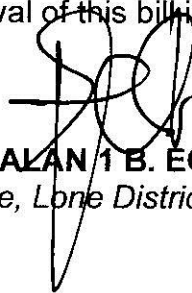
In realizing such policy, Executive Order no. 116, s. 1987 further mandates the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) to advise and render assistance on matters relative to the utilization and management of the soils and water as vital agricultural resources; formulate measures and guidelines for effective soil, land, and water resource utilization, as well as soil conservation in croplands and other agricultural areas; undertake soil research programs; coordinate with the relevant government agencies in resettlement areas and prepare the necessary plans for the provision of technical assistance in solving of soil impounding and prevention of soil erosion, fertility preservation, and other related matters; engage in rainmaking projects for agricultural areas, and watersheds to solve the problem of prolonged droughts and minimize their effects on standing agricultural crops.

Being geographically challenged as a province, Dinagat Islands generally banks on its agricultural sector. In 2019, BSWM conducted a soil mapping for soil fertility and suitability wherein the result for Dinagat shows soil suitability on ten various commodities such as coconut, fruit trees, banana, coffee, cacao, pineapple, root crops, corn, vegetables, and rice. Albeit the result, as a newly recognized province, it still needs intensive assistance relative to cost effective soil and water management in order to utilize its inherent resources and enable maximum productivity of its crops and plants. Considering the massive effect of continuous mining in the province, it is imperative to have a frequent interpretation on soil and water quality indicators of heavy metal pollution and contamination. However, presently, all soil testing for the Province of

Dinagat Islands is conducted not in its own grounds but in the Province of Davao which veers away from achieving Dinagat's goals for its agricultural sector.

It is also disconcerting that there is an insufficient water supply in Dinagat due to the lack of adequate water systems. This in turn hampers agricultural productivity in the province. Hence, in view of the foregoing, it is undeniable that the establishment of a Provincial Bureau of Soils and Water Management in the Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands shall be prioritized in keeping with the needs of the Dinagatnons especially in these times of pandemic and for a long-term sustainable agriculture and land use stability.

In the best interest of our citizens, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALAN B. ECLEO

Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL BUREAU OF SOILS AND WATER
MANAGEMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASILISA, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT
ISLANDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of Provincial Bureau of Soils and Water Management in the Dinagat Islands.* – There shall be established and maintained, under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), a Provincial BSWM in the Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands, to be known as the BSWM Dinagat Islands Provincial Office which shall ensure effective soil, land, and water resources utilization by undertaking projects and research on soil conservation, irrigation, rainmaking, and other related activities.

SEC. 2. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the department's program the operationalization of the BSWM Dinagat Islands Provincial Office, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Agriculture, and thereafter, the succeeding funding shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,