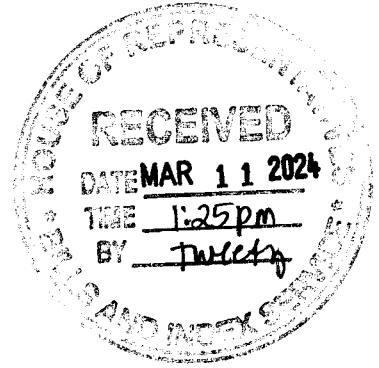


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10089

Introduced by Representative Claude P. Bautista

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a 2023 report by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), it was stated that "Half of the world's population could be living in areas facing water scarcity as early as 2025. Some 700 million people could be displaced by intense water scarcity by 2030. By 2040, roughly 1 in 4 children worldwide will be living in areas of extremely high water stress."

Bringing the issue close to home, Water.Org declared that the Philippines "Out of its population of 115 million peoples, 60 million or 52% of the population lack access to safe water and 43 million or 37 % lack access to a safe toilet." More than the threat of food insufficiency, hygiene, and sanitation problems, and concomitant health issues, water scarcity will endanger the very survival of the people themselves. As one environmental advocate has stated, "Ang tubig ay buhay."

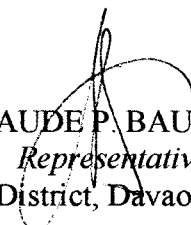
It is ironic that though an archipelagic state, the Philippines is faced with a water crisis. Aside from the people's wanton wastage of this precious resource, other factors beyond our control have exacerbated this problem—climate change, sporadic rainfall, and the burgeoning population have contributed to the continual dwindling of this life-giving source.

To help remedy this situation, this Bill seeks to create a rain catchment facility that will collect and store rainwater as a self-supply option. As per the World Health Organization Rain Water Harvesting Systems can be used as long as the system takes into account site precipitation, surface catchment area, runoff coefficient, roof material, and system water loss. In Singapore, rainwater catchment facility is collected and used to flush toilets, thus, reducing water consumption, energy consumption, and other construction expenditures. In Japan, farmers make excellent use of rainwater to increase their produce and lessen their dependence on irrigation and other water resources.

While the 1989 RA 6716 has similar intentions to the proposed Bill, DPWH is the sole government agency responsible for the funding, construction, rehabilitation, and repair of the rainwater collection. The difference, however, with RA 6716, is that the proposed Bill will be a joint effort of the DA, DSWM, DPWH, and other concerned government agencies that will provide the funding for Small Water Impounding Projects or SWIP. Unlike the 1989 RA 6716, this current Bill will have the formation of farmer-beneficiaries into associations to take charge of the operation, management, and maintenance of the SWIP, making the project a collective engagement

A semi-annual accomplishment report shall be forwarded to the concerned agencies by the farmer-beneficiaries association to gauge the effective operation of the SWIP and address concerns that may come up regarding the project.

Due to the importance of the SWIP, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.



CLAUDE P. BAUTISTA
Representative
Lone District, Davao Occidental

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 10089

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AN ACT
PROVIDING SMALL WATER IMPOUNDING PROJECTS (SWIP) FOR
AGRICULTURE IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 SWIP Act

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*- It is the policy of the State to adopt a measure that is efficient and expedient in order to address issues on food security and water scarcity especially during the drought season. It is also the policy of the state to recognize and strengthen the capacities of Local Government Units and communities in addressing these issues. For this purpose, the government shall provide a measure that would enable the LGUs to attain effective and sustainable management of water resources and would help address concerns of water scarcity most especially during drought season.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*- As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

Small Water Impounding Projects- a structure constructed across a narrow depression or valley to hold back water and develop a reservoir that will store rainfall and run-off during the rainy season for immediate or future use.

SECTION 4. SWIP Act.- It shall be mandatory for each barangay to reserve, develop, and maintain a SWIP which will be utilized for agriculture, irrigation, livestock and fishery production and other environmental uses. It must have a sufficient storage capacity in order to ensure whole-year-round agricultural production, and for soil and water conservation in areas with distinct wet and dry seasons to increase cropping intensity and enhance crop diversification.

In this matter, all Local Government Units, with the technical assistance of Bureau of Soils and Water Management and the DPWH shall identify suitable sites for the establishment of SWIPs in every barangay within their respective jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. Designing and Planning of the SWIPs.-The LGUs, in coordination and supervision of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) shall conduct feasibility studies and program of works of feasible sites of SWIPs based on the guidelines to be issued by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In addition, the implementation procedures of the establishment of SWIPs shall comply with the requirements of the Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Standards for irrigation and other related standards laid down by law.

SECTION 6. Mandatory Right-of-Way Acquisition for SWIPs- It shall be mandatory for the SWIPs sites to be free from Right of Way disputes prior to their implementation. In such cases, the LGU concerned shall conduct the acquisition of the real property in dispute either through sale, expropriation, or any other mode of acquisition pursuant to existing laws. The cost of such acquisition shall form part of the project cost.

SECTION 7. Operation, Management, and Maintenance of the SWIPs.- It shall be mandatory that the SWIPs be officially turned-over to the farmer beneficiaries who shall be responsible for the operation and management of the SWIPs. The DA, BSWM, TESDA shall

provide the necessary assistance, training, and programs that would equip the farmer-beneficiaries with the necessary skills to operate and manage the SWIPs.

The DA and BSWM shall also assist the farmer beneficiaries to establish Small Water Impounding Projects Associations (SWIPAs) and conduct institutional developmental training such as Technical Skills Training, Leadership Skills Training etc to these associations.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the SWIP, the SWIPAs shall submit accomplishment reports every six (6) months to the BSWM of the performance of the SWIP such as information on the total volume of retained water and its utilization.

SECTION 8. Research and Development of SWIPs.-The BSWM and its Regional Offices shall develop a unified information system that would serve as the server that aims to store, analyze and transmit data and information regarding the existing SWIPs in order to assist the farmer-beneficiaries in managing the same.

Moreover, the BSWM, in coordination with DOST and DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research, shall conduct research and developmental studies that would aim to improve and expand the SWIPs in the country.

SECTION 9. Appropriations- The necessary funding for the construction, operation, management, and maintenance of the SWIPs shall be included in the annual funding appropriations of the DA, BSWM, DPWH, DOST, and other concerned government agencies.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations-Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DA, BSWM, DPWH and other concerned national agencies shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.- All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*-If any portion or provision of this Act shall be unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,