



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 811



Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, DEFINING ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We are surrounded by water. In fact, almost seventy percent (70%) of the earth's surface is covered with water. Two percent (2%) of it, is freshwater. However, only one percent (1%) of our freshwater can be accessed. The rest is trapped in snowfields and glaciers. This tiny fraction of accessible freshwater caters to around 6.8 billion people.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services, almost 2 billion people depend on health care facilities without basic water services, and 297,000 children under five die from diarrheal disease, every year, due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene, or unsafe drinking water." In the 2021 Report of the United Nations – Water, 2.3 billion people live in countries with water stress level, of which 733 million are in high and critically water-stressed countries. Around seventy percent (70%) of the world's water withdrawal is supplied to agriculture. However, based on the 2020 Report of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 3.2 billion people from agricultural areas suffer from water scarcity, 1.2 billion of whom are in severely water-stressed areas. Water stress basically means that the demand for safe and usable water exceeds the supply.

The Philippines is in a near-crisis water situation. Several areas in the country suffer from water shortage and intermittent water supply. Metro Manila severely suffered a two-week water crisis in 2019.

According to Water.Org, 3 million Filipinos rely on unsafe water sources. One out of ten Filipinos do not have access to safe water sources, based on a study conducted of the WHO. The Philippine Journal of Science published a study stating that three (3) years from now, seventeen (17) out of the twenty (20) major river basins in the country will experience water shortage.

We heavily rely on our surface and ground water sources for household and industrial use. The growing population, rapid urbanization and accelerated economic development increase the demand for water supply. The competing demands of agriculture and industries induce water stress and deplete the aquifers. Additionally, pollution, watershed degradation, indiscriminate land use plan and climate change affect our water quality and quantity. Most of our urban rivers are now heavily polluted. In fact, fifty (50) major rivers are now considered biologically dead.

It is, therefore, imperative that we prepare for this impending crisis. We need a sustainable and effective development and management plan for our limited water resource. We need the necessary infrastructures to bring our plans into fruition.

In light of the preceding, this bill's approval is fervently sought.



LORDAN G. SUAN

Cagayan de Oro City – 1st District



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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 “Department of Water Resources Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the provision of safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water supply and improved sanitation services, while maintaining the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of the country’s water resources and ecological balance.”

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

a) *Department* refers to the Department of Water Resources

b) *Flood Control* refers to methods, acts and protocols to be observed in order to prevent and reduce the detrimental and catastrophic effects of flood waters which include sediment-laden or turbid flows, hyper-concentrated flows or debris flows.

1 c) *Flood Risk Management* (FRM) refers to such acts of defining and
2 determining the appropriate methods, acts and protocols aimed at
3 preventing and reducing the risk of incurring loss of both life and
4 property due to flood waters. Flood risk management consists of a
5 cycle of prevention, mitigation, adaptation, preparedness and early
6 warning, and, finally response and recovery. The elements of FRM
7 include: integrating land-use planning, coastal zone management into
8 water management; adopting a holistic approach so that FRM is part
9 of wider risk or multi-hazard management (earthquake, landslides,
10 storm surge, etc); managing risk and uncertainty as a whole so it is not
11 only hydrological uncertainties but also social, economic and political
12 uncertainties in view of the human behavior and cultural dimensions
13 of FRM.

14 d) *Gender Equality* refers to the principle asserting the equality of men
15 and women and their right to enjoy equal conditions realizing their full
16 human potentials to contribute to and benefit from the results of
17 development, and with the State recognizing that all human beings are
18 free and equal in dignity and rights.

19 e) “Infrastructure and public works” as used in this Act should be read
20 to apply only to wholly 33 or primarily water-related projects and shall
21 not be read to incorporate projects which 34 would not otherwise fall
22 within the purview of the objectives, power and duties of the 35
23 Department.

24 f) *IWRM* refers to the Integrated Water Resource Management or to a
25 systematic, 38 collaborative and multi-stakeholder process, which
26 promotes the coordinated 39 development and management of water,
27 land and related resources within geophysical boundaries in order to
28 maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable 1
29 manner and without compromising the sustainability of vital
30 ecosystems.

31 g) *Levels of Water Supply Service* shall mean as follows:

32 Level I (*point source*) – a protected well or a developed spring
33 with an outlet but without any distribution system, generally
34 adaptable for rural and upland areas where the houses 6 are
35 thinly scattered. A Level 1 facility usually serves an average of 15
36 households.

1 Level II (*communal faucet system or stand posts*) – a system
2 composed of a water source, a reservoir, a piped distribution
3 network, and communal faucets. Usually, one faucet serves 4 to
4 6 households. Generally suitable for rural and urban fringe areas
5 where houses are clustered densely to justify a simple piped
6 system.

7 Level III (*waterworks system or individual house connections*) – a
8 system with a water source, a reservoir, a piped distribution
9 network and household taps. This is generally suited for densely
10 populated urban areas.

11 h) *LGU* refers to Local Government Unit or to the territorial and
12 political subdivisions of the Philippines as defined under the 1987
13 Constitution of the Philippines, which includes provinces, cities,
14 municipalities and barangays.

15 i) *NDRRMC* refers to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management
16 Council

17 j) *PDP* refers to the country's medium-term development called the
18 Philippine Development Plan.

19 k) *RBO* refers to multi-stakeholder River Basin Organization or to
20 organizations which plan, coordinate and monitor activities within a
21 river basin cluster.

22 l) *Sanitation* refers to sewage, sanitation and septage management.

23 m) *Sediment management* refers to control of sediment erosion and
24 deposition in rivers, reservoirs and coastal zones through non-
25 structural and structural measures and control works.

26 n) *SDG* refers to the United Nation's sustainable development goals.

27 o) *Septage* refers to sludge produced on individual onsite wastewater
28 disposal systems, principally septic tanks and cesspools.

29 p) *Sewage* refers to water-carried waste in solution or suspension
30 including sanitary waste (waste products of normal living),
31 commercial waste, industrial waste, agricultural waste and surface
32 runoff conveyed by a sewerage system for treatment or disposal. For
33 purpose of this Act, the definition of septage shall be included in the
34 use of sewage.

1 q) *Sewerage* refers to any system or network of sanitary pipelines,
2 ditches, channels or conduits including pumping stations, lift stations
3 and force mains, service connections including other constructions,
4 devices or appliances appurtenant thereof, which includes the
5 collection, sanitary piping transport, pumping and treatment of water-
6 borne human or animal waste removed from residences, buildings,
7 institutions and industrial and commercial establishments to point of
8 sewage treatment plant disposal.

9 r) *Sewers* refer to pipes or such other works or structures which are
10 built and constructed to treat, carry, transport and dispose sewage.

11 s) *Social inclusion* refers to the process of improving the terms for
12 disadvantaged individuals and groups to take part in society.

13 t) *Tariffs* refer to such amounts which may be charged by licensees of
14 water supply and/or sanitation services for their services based on
15 principles, standards and guidelines established by the Department.

16 u) *Water Demand Management* (WDM) refers to any method – whether
17 technical, economic, administrative, financial, or social – that will
18 accomplish one (or more) of the following things:

19 (1) Reduce the quantity or quality of water required to
20 accomplish a specific task

21 (2) Adjust the nature of the task or the way it is undertaken so
22 that it can be accomplished with less water or with lower quality
23 water

24 (3) Reduce the loss in quantity or quality of water as it flows
25 from source through use to disposal

26 (4) Shift the timing of use from peak to off-peak periods

27 (5) Increase the ability of the water system to continue to serve
28 society during times when water is in short supply.

29 v) *Water Resources Regional Offices* (WRROs) - refer to the field office
30 of the Department which are to be established in accordance with the
31 identified water resources regions in the country.

32 w) *Water Service Providers* (WSPs) refer to the water districts, any
33 LGU-run water utility, BWSA, RWSA, cooperatives and private sector
34 who provides water supply services to any given area.

1 x) *Water supply service* refers to any activity comprising Levels I, II and
2 III water supply 38 including bulk suppliers, suppliers to subdivisions
3 and other water service providers.

4 **Chapter II. ORGANIZATION**

5 **SECTION 4.** *The Department of Water Resources.* – There is hereby created
6 and established the Department of Water Resources, hereinafter referred to
7 as the “Department,” which shall be organized within one hundred eighty
8 (180) days after the effectivity of this Act. The Department shall have the
9 organizational structure, powers and functions needed to perform its
10 mandate as provided in this Chapter.

11 **SECTION 5.** *Mandate of the Department.* The Department shall be primary
12 agency responsible for the comprehensive and integrated water resources
13 development and management for the Philippines. It shall exercise such
14 powers and functions needed to review, revise, harmonize and integrate
15 policies and regulations for conservation of water resources and effective
16 management of water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood
17 control, stormwater/ urban drainage. The Department shall be guided by the
18 integrated water resources management (IWRM) framework, take climate
19 risks into account, and ensure sustainability of natural ecosystem functions
20 and services. In managing water resources, the Department shall aim to
21 improve water conservation and increase system efficiencies, and optimize
22 the use of all freshwater in the country including groundwater, surface water,
23 rainwater, run-offs, floods, stormwater and urban drainage, and treated
24 wastewater to meet various needs.

25 **SECTION 6.** *Objectives of the Department.* Consistent with its mandate, the
26 Department shall have the following objectives:

27 a) To prioritize and seek the immediate attainment of universal access
28 to safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water supply and
29 improved sanitation services for all Filipinos in a manner consistent
30 with the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of the
31 country’s water resources, and to adopt all needed measures to
32 advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in
33 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;
34

35 b) To strengthen and coordinate integrated water resources
36 management planning and policy making to ensure sustainable and

1 fair allocation and efficient use of water resources among competing
2 uses and users, including but not limited to, domestic and municipal
3 use, agriculture (irrigation, farming & fisheries), power generation,
4 commercial, and industrial use;

5 c) To ensure that integrated water resources management is strongly
6 coordinated with land use/cover, coastal zone and multi-hazard
7 planning and management.

8 d) To ensure and oversee the implementation of the Water Code of the
9 Philippines;

10 e) To promote State participation in information sharing and
11 education around best practices in the international movement to
12 achieve universal access to safe water and improved sanitation and the
13 integration of water, energy, food security and environment;

14 f) To ensure that gender equality, social inclusion, climate resiliency
15 and disaster risk reduction are integrated into any water resources
16 management planning, policy making, and the design and construction
17 of water infrastructure;

18 g) To strengthen and coordinate policy making and planning for flood
19 management, integrated with stormwater/urban drainage and
20 appropriate retention or retarding basins in order to plan against,
21 prevent, and minimize the detrimental and catastrophic effects of
22 flooding;

23 h) To encourage and enable private sector participation in the
24 continued growth and development of water sector;

25 i) To promote and adopt water demand management as a national
26 policy to ensure that water is optimized, that water efficiency and
27 conservation become a way of life, that the recycling and reuse of water
28 and treated wastewater are widely practiced, that water is properly
29 priced to encourage efficient use and conservation and that rainwater,
30 flood waters, and run-offs are captured/harvested, stored and treated
31 for future use;

32 j) To ensure that the planning and design of water infrastructure
33 considers the highest efficiency and most appropriate quality, in
34 accordance with national development objectives; and

1 k) To ensure the effective implementation of all the provisions of RA
2 9275, known as the Clean Water Act of the Philippines.

3 **SECTION 7. *Powers and Duties of the Department.*** – The Department shall
4 have the following powers and duties:

5 I. Policy-making and Planning:

6 a) Ensure that Integrated Water Resources Management is adopted as
7 the strategic framework for water management policy-making and
8 planning in the country and coordinate the implementation,
9 promotion, revision and enhancement of IWRM plans;

10 b) Provide policy direction, strategies, and targets in coordination with
11 other relevant entities to meet the goals and objectives for water
12 supply and sanitation, water quality, irrigation, hydropower, flood
13 control, stormwater, and urban drainage. Such policies shall, among
14 other things, integrate the issues of water and sanitation, food security,
15 energy, environment and flood control;

16 c) Formulate and develop policies to promote universal access to safe,
17 adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply, and improved
18 sanitation services for all Filipinos;

19 d) Formulate and promulgate rules and regulations for the
20 development, and optimum utilization of water resources and its
21 administration and management, including coherent water protocols
22 and operation rules of all existing and future water infrastructure; and
23 the imposition on fees or charges as may be deemed necessary by the
24 Department for water resources development; 41 42

25 e) Develop, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, the
26 National Water Resources Management Master Plan following the
27 IWRM framework and building on the 1998 Master Plan Study on
28 Water Resources Management, the Philippine Water Supply and
29 Sanitation Master Plan and existing plans of other agencies;

30 f) Conduct continuing hydrologic surveys and studies of the country's
31 renewable water supply, establish, operate and maintain observation
32 station networks with a view towards formulating long-term policies
33 to balance the sustainability and optimal multiple use of water
34 resources, defining the hydrologic boundaries of basins of the existing

1 water supply sources and developing or updating and implementing
2 countrywide comprehensive basin-wide master plans;

3 g) Establish, operate, and maintain a centralized water resources data
4 center necessary for the scientific survey and appraisal of surface and
5 ground water potentials of the country and determine the annual
6 renewable water available per water resources region;

7 h) Assist and provide the National Economic and Development
8 Authority (NEDA) secretariat with required data and input from and
9 for the water sector in the formulation of the country's short-term and
10 long-term strategic development plans, and actions and recommend
11 the adoption of general policies and guidelines for water resources
12 development to the NEDA secretariat;

13 i) Review and approve water resources development plans and
14 programs of any agency within the context of the National Water
15 Resource Management Master Plan and overall national plans and
16 program;

17 j) Regularly review regulations prescribed by any government agency
18 pertaining to water use, exploitation, development, conservation or
19 protection of waters, water resources, and watershed or basin areas;

20 k) Develop and implement in coordination with other relevant
21 agencies, effective codes, standards, benchmarks, and reasonable
22 guidelines to ensure the safety of all public, and private water
23 structures in the country and assure efficiency and proper quality in
24 the construction of water, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood
25 control and drainage 34 infrastructure;

26 l) Review existing guidelines appropriate for Private Sector
27 Participation in the water sector and make needed recommendations
28 to the PPP Center, NEDA and other concerned agencies to promote and
29 enable more PPPs in the sector;

30 m) Effect inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and inter-departmental
31 coordination on all aspects of data gathering for water resources
32 development planning and compel submissions of statistics and data
33 on water management with the aim of operationalizing the integrated
34 approach to water resources management;

1 n) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may be
2 necessary to implement and enforce its powers and functions under
3 this Act;

4 II. Resource Regulation

5 a) Manage, protect, and preserve the country's water resources to
6 ensure the optimal use thereof for domestic water supply, sanitation,
7 irrigation, hydropower, navigation, flood control, and recreation,
8 including the enhancement and maintenance of water quality,
9 conservation of watershed, control of water pollution and
10 environmental restoration, without compromising the natural
11 ecosystem functions and services;

12 b) Regulate and control the utilization, abstraction, diversion and
13 development of water resources, taking in consideration its equitable
14 distribution among competing demands and determine the standards
15 of beneficial and priority uses of water in times of crisis and national
16 emergencies;

17 c) Determine, adjudicate, and grant water rights amending, for this
18 purpose, Act No. 2152, and other laws relating to the appropriation
19 and utilization of surface and groundwater;

20 d) Formulate and enforce rules and regulations for the development
21 and optimum use of water resources and its administration and
22 management, and implement rules and guidelines for the enforcement
23 of water-related laws including coherent water protocols, operational
24 rules of all existing and future water infrastructure and appropriate
25 sanctions to be imposed for non-compliance;

26 III. Administration and Management:

27 a) Develop guidelines including rules of partnership among the
28 Department, field offices of national government agencies, LGUs and
29 other stakeholders, and facilitate the establishment of multi-
30 stakeholder river basin organizations (RBOs) per river basin and
31 strengthen and support existing RBOs and monitor their activities;

32 b) Develop materials for capacity building and training on RBO
33 development and conduct training and workshops for prospective
34 river basins;

1 c) Authorize its representatives or any deputized agent to enter any
2 property of public dominion or any private land, building or enclave,
3 whether inhabited or not, for the purpose of conducting hydrologic
4 surveys and investigations, including assessing and evaluating the
5 conditions of water facilities installed and determining compliance
6 with water laws and standards;

7 d) Provide technical assistance to water users including but not limited
8 to farmers, communities, LGUs and other water service providers
9 (WSP) whether directly or in coordination with other agencies on all
10 aspects of integrated water resources management;

11 e) Respond to consumer complaint/s, and ensure the adequate
12 promotion of consumer interests;

13 f) Deputize agents, whether from the public or private sector, to assist
14 in the performance of any of the powers and functions of the
15 Department;

16 g) Appoint, hire and maintain adequate staff and personnel, advisers
17 and/or consultants with suitable qualifications and experience, as
18 necessary;

19 IV. Coordination

20 a) Coordinate and integrate, on a sound and logical basis, water
21 resources development activities of the country within the context of
22 national plans and policies for social and economic development;

23 b) Coordinate with other government agencies, universities and
24 private professional groups for all aspects of data gathering, the
25 conduct of special studies and research on all related aspects of water
26 resources management and development such as climate change,
27 environmental quality, desalination, and the development of operating
28 strategies, procedures, and protocols with accompanying
29 computerized decision tools for major water facilities;

30 c) Coordinate with the concerned and relevant agencies engaged in
31 flood control, flood risk management and drought risk management;

32 d) Proactively coordinate with Local Government Units to ensure the
33 integration of water resources development plans into their
34 comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs), Comprehensive Development

1 Plans (CDPs) or Provincial Physical Framework and Development Plan
2 (PPFDP).

3 V. General or Others

4 a) Exercise such other powers and functions necessary or incidental to
5 the effective administration and management of the country's water
6 resources; and,

7 b) Carry out such other functions as the President may from time to
8 time assign to the Department consistent with the aims and provisions
9 of this Act.

10
11 **SECTION 8.** *Secretary of the Department of Water Resources.* – The authority
12 and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for
13 the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary of
14 the Department of Water Resources, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary,
15 who shall:

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

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

21 c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out
22 Department objectives, policies and functions;

23 d) Exercise supervision and control over all Bureaus and Offices under
24 the Department;

25 e) Supervise all attached agencies and corporations in accordance with
26 law;

27 f) Represent the Department in contracts, awards, and the like;

28 g) As deemed appropriate by the Secretary, delegate authority for the
29 performance of any power or function, as defined herein to officials
30 and employees under his direction; and

31
32 h) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be provided
33 by law. No person shall be appointed Secretary unless he possesses
34 extensive knowledge of public administration and has a minimum of

1 ten (10) years experience in the administration of water, sanitation,
2 irrigation, flood control and drainage programs preferably in a public
3 agency.
4

5 **SECTION 9. *Office of the Secretary.*** – The Office of the Secretary shall be
6 composed of the Secretary and his immediate staff.

7 **SECTION 10. *Undersecretaries.*** – The Secretary shall be assisted by not more
8 than five (5) Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon
9 the recommendation of the Secretary. The Secretary is hereby authorized to
10 delineate and assign the respective functional areas of responsibility of the
11 Undersecretaries: Provided, that such responsibility shall be with respect to
12 the mandate and objectives of the Department; and Provided further, that no
13 Undersecretary shall be assigned primarily administrative responsibilities.
14 Within his functional area of responsibility, an Undersecretary shall have the
15 following functions:

- 16 a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and
17 implementation of Department policies, plans, programs and projects;
18 b) Supervise all the operational activities of the assigned units for
19 which the Undersecretary is responsible to the Secretary; and
20 c) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned
21 or delegated by the Secretary to promote efficiency and effectiveness
22 in the delivery of public services or as may be required by law.

23 One (1) of the Undersecretaries shall be the Undersecretary for Planning and
24 Policy who should be a Career Officer and shall have primary responsibility,
25 in coordination with the Planning and Policy Service, for advancing efforts in
26 the pursuit of the ultimate goal of universal access to water supply and
27 sanitation systems and sustainable management of water resources. The
28 Undersecretary for Planning and Policy shall also have the primary
29 responsibility for knowledge sharing and advancement of efforts around the
30 integration of water, energy, environment and food security.

31 No person shall be appointed Undersecretary unless he possesses a working
32 knowledge of public administration and has a minimum of seven (7) years of
33 experience in the administration of water, sanitation, irrigation, flood control
34 and stormwater drainage, preferably in a public agency or with legal,
35 financial or financial knowledge of such programs; provided that only five

(5) years of experience shall be required for the Undersecretary to be assigned for support services.

SECTION 11. *Assistant Secretaries.* – The Secretary shall be assisted six (6) Assistant Secretaries appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary: one to be responsible for Planning and Policy Service; one for Decision Support System Service; one for the Regulatory Service; one for the Comptrollership and Financial Management Service; one for the Legal and Legislative Service; and one for the Administrative and Human Resources Management Service.

No person shall be appointed Assistant Secretary unless he possesses a working knowledge of public administration and has a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the administration of water, sanitation, irrigation, flood control and stormwater drainage or other water resources management programs.

SECTION 12. *Organizational Structure.* – The Department shall be composed of the following organizational units:

a) Department Proper consisting of the Office of the Secretary, the Offices of the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, the Internal Audit Office, the Public Affairs Office, the Pollution Adjudication Board, the Planning and Policy Service, Decision Support System Service, Administrative and Human Resources Service, Legal and Legislative Service, Comptrollership and Financial Management Service and Resource Regulation Service.

b) The Attached Agencies, namely:

1) The Local Water Utilities Administration, whose mandate, powers and functions are defined in Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended and which will be transferred from DPWH and attached to the Department. It shall continue to be primarily a specialized lending institution for the promotion, development and financing of local water utilities. In the implementation of its functions, the Administration shall (a) prescribe minimum standards and regulations in order to assure acceptable standards of construction materials and supplies, maintenance, operation, personnel training, accounting and fiscal practices for local water utilities; (b) furnish technical assistance and personnel training programs for local water utilities; (c) monitor

1 and evaluate local water standards; and (d) effect system
2 integration, joint investment and operation, district annexation
3 and de-annexation whenever economically warranted (As
4 amended by 2 Sec. 22, PD 768).

5 2) The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS),
6 whose mandates, powers and functions are defined by Republic
7 Act No. 6324, as amended, and which will be transferred from
8 the DPWH and attached to the Department. It will continue to
9 facilitate the exercise by the concessionaires of its agency
10 powers, carry out accounting and notification functions,
11 monitor, report, and administer loans and perform related
12 functions in connections with existing projects, manage and
13 dispose its retained assets and manage and operate the Umiray-
14 Angat Trans-basin Project.

15 3) The National Irrigation Administration, whose mandate,
16 power and functions are stated in Republic Act No. 3601, as
17 amended and Presidential Decree No. 552, as amended and
18 which will be transferred from the Office of the President and
19 attached to the Department. It will:

- 20 - plan, design, construct, and/or improve all types of
21 irrigation projects and 18 appurtenant structures;
- 22 - operate, maintain, and administer all national irrigation
23 systems (NIS);
- 24 - supervise the operation, maintenance, and repair, or
25 otherwise, administer;
- 26 - temporarily all communal and pump irrigation systems
27 constructed, improved, and/or repaired wholly or
28 partially with government funds;
- 29 - delegate the partial or full management of NIS to duly
30 organized cooperatives or 24 associations;
- 31 - construct multiple-purpose water resources projects
32 designed primarily for irrigation, and secondarily for
33 hydraulic power development and/or other uses such as
34 flood control, drainage, land reclamation, domestic water
35 supply, roads and highway construction, and

1 reforestation, among others, Provided, that the plans,
2 designs, and the construction thereof, shall be undertaken
3 in coordination with the agencies concerned;

4 - charge and collect from the beneficiaries of the water
5 from all irrigation systems constructed by or under its
6 administration, such fees or administration charges as
7 may be necessary to cover the cost of operation,
8 maintenance, and insurance and recover the costs of
9 construction within a reasonable period of time to the
10 extent consistent with government policy; and

11 - recover funds or portions thereof expended for the
12 construction and/or rehabilitation of communal irrigation
13 systems (CIS) which shall accrue to a special fund for
14 irrigation development.

15 4) The Laguna Lake Development Authority, whose mandate,
16 powers and functions are laid out in Republic Act No. 4850, as
17 amended which will be transferred from DENR 42 and attached
18 to the Department. It will continue to serve as the lake
19 management and 43 development authority similar to a multi-
20 stakeholder river basin organization and will ensure the
21 implementation of the Laguna Lake Master Plan which will be
22 updated by the Department to ensure alignment with the
23 National Master Plan for Water Management. Its regulatory
24 powers will however be taken over by the Department.

25 5) The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, which was
26 created by Executive Order 5 No. 54, series of 1999, as amended
27 which will be transferred from the Office of the 6 President and
28 attached to the Department. It will update the existing master
29 plan to ensure consistency with the National Water Resources
30 Management Master Plan, regulate easement, integrate and
31 coordinate development programs, abate industrial wastewater
32 and sewerage dumping and enforce environmental laws,
33 relocate formal and informal settlers, undertake civil works such
34 as dredging, clearing of structures, cleaning of the river and its
35 tributaries/esteros, prepare regular Status Report to the
36 President, coordinate with other national and local government

1 agencies/units and formulate its own implementing rules and
2 regulations.

3 6) Any other agency exercising water resources management,
4 conservation and protection functions which the President may
5 order to be transferred to the Department;

6 c) Water Resources Regional Offices, based on the 12 water resources
7 regions of the country, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the
8 Secretary.

9 **SECTION 13.** *Offices, functions, and personnel to be completely subsumed by*
10 *the 23 Department.*

11 The following offices with their powers, functions, personnel, applicable
12 funds and appropriations, records, equipment and property are to be
13 subsumed by the Department:

14 a) The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) with all its divisions
15 and sections, whose mandate, powers and functions are found in
16 Presidential Decree No. 424, as amended;

17 b) The River Basin Control Office (RBCO) of the DENR whose mandate,
18 powers and functions are found in Executive Order No. 510 and
19 Executive Order No. 816, as amended;

20 c) The Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) of the DENR which was
21 created by virtue of DENR Special Order 2011-01 to coordinate the
22 efforts of the 14 national agencies covered by the Mandamus Order of
23 the Supreme Court to rehabilitate Manila Bay;

24 d) The flood management planning and sediment management
25 function of the Flood Control Management Cluster of the DPWH; and

26 e) The Water Quality Management Section of the EMB of the DENR.

27 **SECTION 14.** *Functions to be transferred to the Department.*

28 a) The function of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the
29 DENR to conduct hydrological surveys;

30 b) The monitoring of stream flow and other water data collection
31 function of the Bureau of Design of the DPWH.

32 **SECTION 15.** *Planning and Policy Service.* – The Planning and Policy Service
33 is hereby created to provide the Department with the capability to undertake

1 water infrastructure development planning and programming. For this
2 purpose, it shall have the following functions:

3 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to water resources
4 planning;

5 b) Assist the Undersecretary for Planning and Policy on all matters
6 related to the specific functions of the position;

7 c) Formulate strategies and priorities for water resources
8 management and development consistent with national development
9 objectives and initiate or undertake relevant surveys for development
10 planning;

11 d) Develop and regularly update a comprehensive and integrated
12 National Water Resources Management Master Plan and ensure its
13 integration into existing land use plans;

14 e) Coordinate river-basin planning following the integrated water
15 resources management framework and the river-basin approach;

16 f) Formulate or update existing River Basin Master (or
17 comprehensive) Plans which includes all aspects of water
18 management and development such as water supply and sanitation,
19 irrigation, flood control and stormwater/urban drainage, drought risk
20 management, water resource development systems and other public
21 water works projects, including phasing of implementation;

22 g) Based on the river basin master plan, identify priority packages for
23 water infrastructure development per river basin including water
24 supply, sanitation, irrigation, flood control and stormwater/urban
25 drainage, drought risk management, water resource development
26 systems and other public works projects; package project proposals
27 for funding and prioritize project implementation and the allocation of
28 funds and other resources and undertake or supervise and evaluate
29 the conduct of feasibility studies and project preparation thereof;

30 h) Evaluate and appraise all regional and inter-regional infrastructure
31 water development plans and programs as to their feasibility and
32 consistency with approved strategies and long and medium-term
33 plans;

34 i) Initiate regular Department-wide planning exercises and act as the
35 secretariat thereof;

1 j) Gather, analyze and organize needed statistical data and
2 information;

3 k) Provide technical assistance related to its functions to the other
4 Services, Bureaus and the Regional Offices as needed;

5 l) Conduct of hydrologic and hydraulic surveys and assessments of
6 surface waters;

7 m) Develop general criteria and standards on project investigation,
8 formulation, planning;

9 n) Develop guidelines and standards on social inclusion in water
10 resources management and ensure policies, programs and plans are
11 compliant with the gender and development framework of the
12 government;

13 o) Closely coordinate with PAGASA for rainfall and other climate data
14 which should be considered in the planning for water resources
15 development and management and for various water infrastructure;
16 and

17 p) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
18 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

19 **SECTION 16. *Decision Support System Service.*** – The Decision Support
20 System Service is hereby created to provide the Department with water
21 resource management tools and computerized decision support system that
22 incorporates data management system (acquisition and database) and
23 model base (physical, design, planning and decision models). Additionally,
24 the services include services related to networking, data management, and
25 information and knowledge/learning management systems for
26 administrative and non-technical support for the department. The Service is
27 also responsible for providing the Secretary timely reports on the status of
28 various Department projects and activities. For this purpose, it shall have the
29 following functions:

30 a) Provide the Secretary needed data and processed information to aid
31 in policy and management decisions under the mandate of the
32 Department;

33 b) Publish available real-time raw water data (through internet) as
34 well as verified or validated water data (in print and/or electronic

1 form through internet) in tabular and graphical displays as time series
2 and/or spatial data;

3 c) Conduct standard data analysis such as basic statistical analysis,
4 trend analysis, analysis of runs, cluster analysis, etc. and also publish
5 in print and/or electronic form;

6 d) Develop and continuously update water resource management,
7 computerized decision support system (DSS) that incorporates data
8 management system (acquisition and database), model base (physical,
9 design, planning and decision models), and user-friendly interface
10 (graphical and visualization tools). This DSS is composed but not
11 limited to: a measurement or data acquisition system; information or
12 database management system; analytical and numerical models for
13 design/planning and decision/evaluation purposes: and, finally, a
14 user-friendly interface which includes graphical interface or
15 visualization tools.

16 e) The specific models to be developed and maintained should include
17 but not limited to the following: long-term climatologic and weather
18 forecasting model; watershed models and river-floodplain models;
19 groundwater models and coupled to surface water models; flood
20 forecasting model for major rivers; optimization-simulation and/or
21 management models for watershed conservation, conjunctive surface
22 and groundwater use, irrigation scheduling, normal and emergency
23 operations of multipurpose reservoirs; and, water quality and
24 ecological models.

25 f) Develop and manage the management information system and
26 knowledge systems of the Department including the retrieval and
27 processing of monitoring information on all projects and activities of
28 concern to the Secretary and the web portal and conduct systems and
29 process engineering, software development, software configuration
30 management; develop and manage the Department's corporate
31 database, unified database for water industry, data warehouse, other
32 water information resources, library services and document
33 management and archiving services; develop and manage the
34 Department's ICT infrastructure and provide ICT related- services to
35 the Department including computer networking and voice
36 communications services and data exchange; manage the literacy and

1 training services of the Department on various ICTs, KM tools and
2 applications including information and knowledge management.

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

5 **SECTION 17.** *Administrative and Human Resource Service.* – The
6 Administrative and Human Resource Service is hereby created to provide the
7 Department with services relating to human resources development,
8 personnel, records, facilities maintenance, medical and dental, security and
9 property and procurement services. For such purposes, it shall have the
10 following functions:

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

13 b) Prepare and implement an integrated personnel development plan
14 that shall include provisions for merit promotions, performance
15 evaluation, job rotation, suggestions and incentive awards systems,
16 and health and welfare services;

17 c) Provide services related to human resources training, education and
18 development including manpower, career planning and forecasting,
19 and development of indigenous training materials;

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

24 e) Secure and maintain necessary Department facilities, and develop,
25 establish and maintain an efficient and effective security system
26 covering, among others, personnel, physical installations, equipment,
27 documents and materials including the conduct of security
28 investigations;

29 f) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies for a more
30 efficient conduct of administrative processes;

31 g) Develop, establish and maintain an efficient records system;

32 h) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to the Department
33 Proper, Bureaus and Regional and District Offices and, when

1 requested, the government agencies and corporations attached to the
2 Department; and

3 i) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
4 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

5 **SECTION 18.** *Legal and Legislative Service.* – The Legal and Legislative
6 Service is hereby created to provide the Department with services on such
7 legal affairs as contract letting and litigation, legal and legislative research,
8 complaints and investigation, legal counselling and other matters of law. For
9 such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

10 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to legal and legislative
11 affairs;

12 b) Prepare Department contracts and legal instruments, review and
13 interpret all contracts and agreements entered into by the Department
14 and evaluate all legal proposals;

15 c) Conduct administrative investigation as well as the review of
16 administrative charges against officers and employees of the
17 Department;

18 d) Exercise functional jurisdiction over the legal staffs of Regional
19 Offices;

20 e) Provide legal assistance to the Department Proper, the Bureaus and
21 Regional Offices and when requested, the attached corporations;

22 f) Develop and prepare the Department's Legislative Agenda,
23 recommend presidential certification of the urgency of priority water
24 bills, and other water-related legislations;

25 g) Coordinate and maintain linkages among the various offices,
26 bureaus, regional offices and attached agencies to the DWR along with
27 other government agencies on policy matters affecting the
28 Department's mandate in relation to legislation;

29 h) Maintain effective liaison with the Congress and the Senate
30 regarding legislative inquiries and enactment of water bills or other
31 laws that will affect water into law;

32 i) Monitor the progress of the Department's priority/certified bills to
33 ensure their passage;

1 j) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
2 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

3 **SECTION 19. *Comptrollership and Financial Management Service.*** – The
4 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service is hereby created to
5 provide the Department with coordinated services relating to financial
6 systems and procedures, budget, cash, accounting and all financial
7 housekeeping matters. For such purposes, it shall have the following
8 functions:

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

12 b) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget authorizations,
13 undertake budget execution, and prepare and submit all appropriate reports
14 to the proper offices;

15 c) Develop and maintain accounting, financial and assets management
16 systems, procedures and practices in the Department Proper, Bureaus
17 and Regional Offices;

18 d) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational
19 structure, assets management practices, accounting, and other
20 records, reports, and performance standards such as budgets and
21 standard costs of the Department, bureaus, and regional offices;

22 e) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the
23 Department and, when requested, to government corporations and
24 councils attached to the Department; and

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

27 **SECTION 20. – *Resource Regulation Service.*** The Resource Regulatory Service
28 is hereby created to provide the Department with services on resource
29 regulation of all water-related services and activities. For such purposes,
30 it shall have the following functions:

31 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to resource regulations;

32 b.) Determine, grant and regulate water rights for the appropriate,
33 optimal and sustainable use of surface and ground water;

1 c) Determine, evaluate and grant waterworks and sewerage
2 franchises;

3 d.) Investigate violations of the water rights and the Water Code and
4 impose the appropriate sanctions in accordance with existing laws,
5 rules and regulations as well as future rules and regulations which the
6 Department will promulgate;

7 e) Adjudicate water use conflicts; and

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

11 **SECTION 21. *Internal Audit Office.*** – The Internal Audit Office is hereby
12 created for the purpose of conducting comprehensive audit of various
13 Department activities and will report directly to the Secretary. Specifically, it
14 shall have the following functions:

15 a) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to management control
16 and operations audit;

17 b) Conduct management and operations performance audit of
18 Department activities and units and determine as to the degree of
19 compliance with established objectives, policies, standards, methods
20 and procedures, government regulations and contractual obligations
21 of the Department;

22 c) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational
23 structure, assets management practices, accounting and other records,
24 and performance standards (such as budgets and standard costs) of
25 the Department Proper, Bureaus and Regional Offices;

26 d) Analyze and evaluate management deficiencies and assist top
27 management to solve problems by recommending realistic courses of
28 action; and

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

31 **SECTION 22. *Public Affairs Office.*** - The Public Affairs Office is hereby
32 created for the purpose of enhancing government relations with all
33 stakeholders including the media. It shall ensure that women, men, older
34 people and people with disabilities will be consulted, organized and can take

1 active part in all aspects of water resources development and management
2 activities. The office will also lead the planning and organizing of the special
3 events of the Department. For such purposes, it shall have the following
4 functions:

5 A. Public Awareness

6 a) Advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to public affairs
7 services;

8 b) Develop and supervise the implementation of
9 communications programs to have relevant policies, programs
10 and plans of the Department understood by the public;

11 c) Produce and supervise the dissemination of communication
12 materials in line with the priorities of the Department and the
13 national government public information programs;

14 d) Conduct public opinion and attitude surveys to identify the
15 interests and concerns of key groups served by the Department;

16 e) Establish editorial policies on print and broadcast media;

17 f) Establish and maintain linkages with the tri-media and
18 presence in social media;

19 g) Coordinate the conduct of interviews and news conferences;

20 h) Act as spokesperson for the Department;

21 i) Coordinate with various Department units, concerned
22 government agencies, tri-media and other stakeholders on
23 matters related to the above-enumerated functions;

24 j) Coordinate with the appropriate national government
25 agencies tasked with public information affairs.

26 B. Promoting Participation.

27 a) Conduct public consultations and discussions;

28 b) Develop and disseminate relevant and appropriate materials
29 and programs for public information and education, as well as
30 advocacy campaign;

31 c) Conduct seminars and workshops involving the LGUs and the
32 general public on current 22 water issues and problems;

d) Conduct capability building seminars of various stakeholders to promote meaningful participation in the Department's policy making, planning, development and implementation of various programs and projects.

C. Special Events

a) Coordinate the organization and promotion of special events and water exhibits;

b) Act as the focal point for all water related events;

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

SECTION 23. *Pollution Adjudication Board.* – There is hereby created a Pollution Adjudication Board under the Office of the Secretary. The Board shall be composed of the Secretary as Chairman, two (2) Undersecretaries as may be designated by the Secretary, the Director of Water Quality Management Bureau and three (3) other representatives from other stakeholders to be designated by the Secretary as members. The Board shall assume the powers and functions of the Commission/Commissioners of the National Pollution Control Commission with respect to the adjudication of water pollution cases under Republic Act No. 3931, Presidential Decree 984, particularly with respect to Section 6 letters e, f, g, j, k and p of the P.D. 984 and RA 9275. The Bureau of Water Quality Management shall serve as the Secretariat of the Board. These powers and functions may be delegated to the field officers of the Department in accordance with rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Board.

SECTION 24. *Bureaus.* – Each Bureau shall be headed by a Bureau Director who shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the functions of the Bureau concerned. The Bureau Director shall be assisted by one (1) Assistant Director.

SECTION 25. *Bureau of Flood Control and Drainage.* – The Bureau of Flood Control and Drainage is hereby created to plan and design flood control and drainage structures and facilities in accordance with technical standards, guidelines and manuals. For this purpose, it shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1 a) Formulate policy, strategies and programs on flood risk
2 management in the context of integrated flood management (IFM)
3 which integrates water, land, coastal zone and multi-hazard
4 management. In integrating land-use planning and water
5 management, the Department should harmonize and synthesize plans
6 to enable the sharing of information between land-use planning and
7 water management authorities. In integrating hazard management, a
8 holistic approach should be adopted so that IFM should be part of a
9 wider risk or multi-hazard management system (e.g., earthquake,
10 landslides, fire, tsunami, etc.);

11 b) Integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction and
12 management in policies and plans;

13 c) Prepare master plans of flood management and drainage in river
14 basins in coordination with the concerned water resources region and
15 river basin organizations;

16 d) Prepare master plans of urban drainage in cities/municipalities;

17 e) Prepare feasibility studies of recommended measures in the master
18 plans;

19 f) Plan and design structural measures for flood control and drainage;

20 g) Implement and/or collaborate with concerned agencies on the non-
21 structural measures;

22 h) Patrol and investigate rivers including the monitoring of stream
23 flows;

24 i) Conduct post-disaster investigation and evaluation and damage
25 assessment of flood infrastructures after extreme events;

26 j) Conduct research and development on water and sediment-related
27 disasters;

28 k) Develop design guidelines, criteria and standards on flood control
29 and drainage structures;

30 l) Provide technical assistance to other agencies, LGUs and other
31 stakeholders;

32 m) Advise the Secretary on declaring flood control areas and
33 recommend guidelines for flood plain management plans in these

1 areas in coordination with the proposed Department of Disaster
2 Resiliency; and

3 n) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
4 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

5 **SECTION 26. *Bureau of Water Quality Management.*** – The Bureau of Water
6 Quality Management is hereby created to supervise and control over all
7 aspects of water quality management to ensure the sustainability of the
8 country's water resources and the protection of the environment. It should
9 take into account proper and integrated treatment of freshwater and
10 wastewater within the whole process. For this purpose, it shall have the
11 following duties and responsibilities:

12 a) Establish water quality guidelines for freshwater and
13 coastal/marine waters as basis for classifying water bodies in the country.
14 Specifically, develop water quality indices or composite metrics to measure
15 of the quality status and health of natural water bodies in relation to
16 ecological integrity and function.

17 b) Establish effluent standards for point sources of pollution;

18 c) Establish internationally accepted procedures for sampling and
19 analysis;

20 d) Prepare an integrated water quality management framework;

21 e) Prepare 10-year water quality management plans for each water
22 quality management area as part of the River Basin Master Plans and in
23 support of the National Water Resources Management Master Plan;

24 f) Classify groundwater sources and prepare a national groundwater
25 vulnerability map;

26 g) Classify or reclassify all water bodies according to their beneficial
27 usages using the established water quality guidelines established;

28 h) Issue permits, clearances and similar instruments pursuant to the
29 Clean Water Act of 2004;

30 i) Collect the wastewater discharge (EUF) fees for all permittees;

31 j) Monitor the compliance of water discharge permittees with the
32 effluent standards;

- k) Regularly monitor the water quality of major water bodies in the country and analyze the data to identify possible sources of pollution;
- l) Issue notices of violations and/or cease and desist orders for those found in violation;
- m) File the needed cases against violators with the Pollution Adjudication Board;
- n) Serve as secretariat of the PAB; and
- o) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

SECTION 27. *Water Resources Regional Offices.* – The Water Resources Regional Offices, organized per water resources region shall be responsible for implementing the mandates, powers and duties of the Department at the field level, except for policymaking which will be vested solely with the Central Office. The master planning for the nearby river basins (e.g. Pasig-Marikina-Laguna Lake-Cavite) will likewise be the responsibility of the Central Office. For this purpose, the duties and responsibilities of the WRRO shall be as follows:

- a) Formulate or update and coordinate the river basin master plans for river basins within its jurisdictions ensuring consistency with the National Water Resources Management Master Plan;
- b) Advocate and strongly support the creation and functioning of multi-stakeholder River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and serve as the secretariat of the said RBOs;
- c) Undertake and evaluate the planning, design, and work supervision functions of the Department for the water infrastructures within the region;
- d) Ensure the implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules and regulations regarding the abovementioned infrastructure as well as public and private physical structures;
- e) Provide technical assistance related to the water-related functions of other agencies within the region especially the local government;
- f) Coordinate with other departments, agencies, institutions and organizations, especially local government units within the region in the planning and implementation of the river basin master plans;

1 g) Conduct continuing consultations with the local communities, take
2 appropriate measures to make the services of the Department
3 responsive to the Central Office and recommend such appropriate
4 actions as may be necessary; and

5 h) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
6 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

7 The Department shall retain and have such Project Management Offices as
8 may be required, which shall be under the supervision and control of the
9 appropriate Water Resources Regional Office Director, unless otherwise
10 determined by the Secretary for reasons of supra-regional scope, magnitude
11 and multi-functional coverage.

12 **SECTION 28.** *Water Resources Regional Director.* – The Water Resources
13 Regional Offices shall be headed by a Water Resources Regional Director who
14 shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the duties and
15 responsibilities of the Office. Towards this end, the Water Resources Regional
16 Director shall, within his/her defined powers exercise functional and
17 administrative supervision over all units within the region including the
18 authority to commit their resources and personnel to integrated regional
19 water resources management, water supply and sanitation management,
20 and flood control and flood risk management initiatives. The Water
21 Resources Regional Director shall also perform such other related duties and
22 responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may
23 be required by law.

24 The Water Resources Regional Director shall be assisted by two (2) Assistant
25 Water Resources Regional Office Directors who shall exercise supervision
26 respectively over (1) the planning, project design and evaluation function
27 and (2) technical assistance to River Basin Organizations within the water
28 resources region.

29 **CHAPTER 3 – TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

30 **SECTION 29.** *Interface with Other Agencies.*

31 (1) The Department of Health (DOH) shall continue to have primary
32 authority and responsibility for setting and enforcing drinking water
33 quality standards. The Department shall coordinate with the DOH in
34 this regard and shall ensure consistency of standards and targets
35 which it will set for compliance of permittees with the DOH's
36 mandated standards;

(2) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall continue to have primary authority and responsibility for protecting the environment and managing the country's watersheds;

(3) The Department of Energy and the National Power Corporation (NPC) shall continue to have primary authority and responsibility for setting up and running hydropower plants but will ensure that any hydropower plant development plans are consistent with the National Water Development and Management Plan;

(4) The Department shall coordinate with the Department of Agriculture to ensure agricultural development that reduces sources of long-term pollution for surface water and groundwater, and agricultural and industrial economic development that employs water efficiency, water recycling/reuse and the appropriate treatment of wastewater;

(5) The Department shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) or eventually the proposed Department of Disaster Resiliency to ensure that its plans and designs for flood control, flood risk management and drought risk management are aligned with the objectives and plans of the said Department; and

(6) The Department shall coordinate with relevant government agencies, including Local Government Units (LGUs) for development projects and to ensure cross-cutting collaboration between and among all water subsectors and facilitate inter-agency subsector coordination, strategic development, planning, monitoring and provision of technical, institutional and financial capacity building support to their different stakeholders at the water subsector level.

SECTION 30. *Transfer of Rights and Obligations.*

The Department shall, by virtue of this Act, be surrogated to all the rights and assume all the obligations of the government agencies and units whose powers and functions have been absorbed, transferred, or attached to the Department provided these are in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit. The transfer of powers and functions as herein provided shall take effect within 6 months of the effectivity of this Act. As

1 such, all affected agencies/offices/units shall continue to function under
2 their present mandates until the transition is fully in effect.

3 **SECTION 31: *Funding.***

4 The sum of Two Billion Pesos (P2,000,000,000.00) shall be set aside from
5 available funds of the National Treasury and is hereby appropriated and
6 authorized to be released for the organization of the Department and its
7 initial operations. Thereafter, the Department shall submit its annual budget
8 to fully carry out its powers and functions and achieve its objectives to the
9 Office of the President, for approval, provided it shall not be less than the
10 amount provided for in its initial implementation.

11 **SECTION 32. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, orders, rules and regulations, or
12 portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
13 accordingly.

14 **SECTION 33. *Separability Clause.*** — If any provisions of this Act or the
15 application of such provision to any person or circumstances be declared
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such
17 provision to other person or circumstances shall not be affected by such
18 declaration.

19 **SECTION 34. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
20 the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of
21 general circulation.

22
23 *Approved,*