

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2530



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE (3) YEARS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to safe and clean water is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of good health and dignified living.¹ Yet, millions of Filipinos—particularly in rural and underserved barangays—continue to suffer from limited access to potable water, exposing communities to water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid.

Under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with the Philippines, the government and the UN aim the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2028.²

While there has been a significant improvement in the accessibility of safely managed drinking water in the country at 53.1%, the 2024 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) by the Philippine Statistics Authority still showed low access to safely managed drinking water in the majority of regions in the country such as: Region II (Cagayan Valley) with 27.6%, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) with 14.8%, Region V (Bicol Region) with 25.8%, and Region X (Northern Mindanao) with 44%. On the other hand, only 44.4% of families in the country had access to basic drinking water service from an

¹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 64/292 adopted on 28 July 2010.

²https://philippines.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/UN-SDCF-PHL-FINAL%2823-Oct-2023%29_CLEAN.pdf

improved source with NCR (14.1%), followed by Region IV-A (25.5%), and Region III (32.4%) having least access to basic drinking water services.³

With this proposed measure, we seek to address the pressing issue to provide potable drinking water across the country by establishing a three (3) year nationwide program for the construction of potable water supply systems in every barangay, to be jointly undertaken by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The program will give priority to areas with high incidence of water-borne illnesses and inadequate water infrastructure, guided by social, economic, and environmental considerations. The involvement of local government units (LGUs) is emphasized throughout the stages of planning, implementation, and maintenance to ensure ownership, sustainability, and relevance to the actual needs of the communities.

This measure will not only address the existing water infrastructure gap in the country but will also address a critical public health and social development concern by providing potable water supply to all Filipinos nationwide.

In view of the foregoing and to uphold the right of every Filipino to equitable access to clean and safe water, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

³ <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/income-expenditure/apis/node/1684076742>

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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION. 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 promote the quality of health of every Filipino through the provision of adequate social services
3 including, but not limited to, the provision of an adequate potable water supply system to
4 minimize their exposure to water borne diseases.

5
6 **SEC. 2. Lead Agency.** - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
7 in cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Public Works and
8 Highways (DPWH) shall undertake a three-year program for the construction of potable water
9 supply system in every barangay throughout the country. The program shall give priority to
10 areas with social and health problems brought about by the water-borne diseases taking into
11 consideration population, area served, project cost and other economic, social and
12 environmental factors as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the
13 context of the national development plans. The lead agencies concerned, in consultation with
14 the provincial and municipal development councils, shall determine the areas that shall be
15 given priority.

16

1 **SEC. 3. *Program Guidelines.*** - The lead agencies concerned shall observe the
2 following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and management of potable
3 water supply project:
4

5 (a) Funds provided for in this Act shall be used only for the construction of the new
6 potable water supply system.
7

8 (b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;
9

10 (c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the
11 provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities having
12 inadequate supply of potable water.
13

14 (d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the project in the project
15 planning, identification, design, management of all project funds, construction and
16 monitoring;
17

18 (e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local
19 government unit concerned;
20

21 (f) The provincial officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development
22 Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways, shall be responsible
23 in the preparation of feasibility studies and design of communal water supply project.
24

25 **SEC. 4. *Appropriations.*** - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (50,000,000.00) is hereby
26 appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this Act. Thereafter, the
27 succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation shall be included in the Annual
28 General Appropriations Act until the program shall have been completed.
29

30 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of Act is held unconstitutional, other
31 parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and
32 effect.
33

1 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders, rule and
2 regulation and inconsistent with the provision of this Act are here amended, repealed or
3 modified accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper or general circulation.

Approved,