

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3775



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
PROMOTING 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 YEARS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to safe and potable water is fundamental in every community. It cannot be emphasized enough that clean water is critical to every man's survival.

Unfortunately, in the Philippines, more than 3 million people rely on unsafe and unsustainable water, while 7 million lack access to improved sanitation.

This bill seeks to address this alarming problem by establishing a potable water supply system in every barangay within three years. This shall be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

This measure also focuses on the priority construction of a communal water supply system that will be equitably distributed to the provinces and municipalities that most need it.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. PM VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY
SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS**

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 “*Potable Water Supply Act.*”

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

SECTION 3. *Legal Agency.* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake a three-year program for the construction of a potable water supply system in every barangay throughout the country. The program shall give priority to areas with social and health problems brought about by water-borne diseases, taking into consideration population, area served, project cost, and other economic, social, and environmental factors as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of the national development plans. The lead agencies concerned, in consultation with the provincial and municipal development councils, shall determine the areas that shall be given priority.

SECTION 4. *Program Guidelines.* – The lead agencies concerned shall observe the following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction, and management of the potable water supply project:

- a) Funds provided for in this act shall be used only for the construction of the new potable water supply system;
- b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;
- c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities having an inadequate supply of potable water.
- d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the project in the project planning, identification, design, management of all project funds, construction, and monitoring;
- e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local government unit concerned;
- f) The provincial officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways shall be responsible for the preparation of feasibility studies and design of the communal water supply project.

SECTION 5. *Appropriation.* – The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this act. Thereafter, the succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act until the program has been completed.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of the Act is held unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are here amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,