



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

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10389**



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT

MANDATING EACH CITY OR MUNICIPALITY TO CREATE A RIVER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL RIVERS, RIVER SYSTEMS AND NATURAL WATERWAYS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

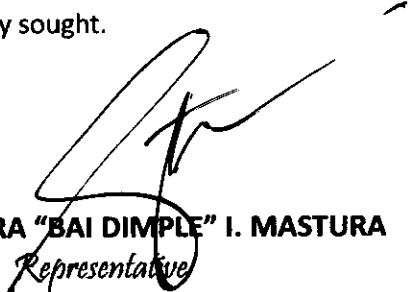
The protection of rivers and river systems is key to climate change resilience, as rivers play a vital role in mitigating its impacts by regulating water flow and providing habitats for fish that are critical to food security.

In many aspects of Philippine history and culture, rivers are integral to the foundation of many cities and municipalities directly connected to our identity as a sovereign nation and people.

While healthy rivers contribute to the overall health of the environment and communities, the economic benefits derived are multiple, support biodiversity, and mitigate natural disasters when heavy rains cause flooding and landslides downstream.

This bill seeks the creation in each of the cities and municipalities of an authority solely for the preservation, protection, and development of rivers, river systems, and natural waterways within their respective jurisdiction, without prejudice to pertinent provisions of the Local Government Code on collaboration with other local government units, the national government, and stakeholders.

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


SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Lone District, Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City



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

SECTION 1. Each city or municipality is hereby mandated to create a River Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as the Authority, for the preservation, protection, and development of all rivers, river systems, and natural waterways within its jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. The Authority shall execute the powers and functions herein vested and conferred upon it, in such manner as will, in its judgment, aid to the fullest possible extent in carrying out the purposes outlined in this Act. The Authority shall have the following functions:

- a) Prepare a masterplan to protect, preserve, develop, and exploit all rivers, river systems, and natural waterways;
- b) Conduct an engineering survey of rivers, river systems, and natural waterways, assessing and monitoring water quality, pinpointing pollution sources, and identifying the rivers that need to be developed for exploitation and rehabilitation;
- c) Initiate and facilitate planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of pertinent projects with positive impact on environment and development, including dredging, widening, and deepening of river channels and improvement of river alignments;
- d) Prioritize rivers positively identified for development and rehabilitation, and on the basis thereof, prepare a river-specific plan of operation for the improvement, development and rehabilitation of environmentally degraded rivers;
- e) Initiate funding arrangements with foreign and local donors, to finance priority development projects and provide direct funding of minor initiatives expected to create a positive impact of the environment in the projected area;
- f) Develop information materials to ensure a high degree of environmental awareness in government agencies, organizations and the general public;
- g) Make recommendations for the proper agencies offering financial support, technical and physical assistance about the level of priority to be accorded river systems development and rehabilitation projects;

- h) Coordinate and integrate such projects or operations of local government, agencies, public corporations and, where clearly necessary and feasible, those of private entities, as will bear directly upon the plans and activities of the Authority to make possible an intensive development and rehabilitation of the rivers, river systems and natural waterways in the country within the context of the master plan;
- i) Set-up a compact and well-trained staff for effective liaison and consultation or joint planning and implementation with government and private entities;
- j) Make an annual report to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government of its activities, including those done in collaboration with the various government and private entities engaged in the implementation of the projects and programs, which shall include, among others, a comparison of the development and rehabilitation targets as set for the year ending and the extent to which actual accomplishments measure up to such targets, and the appropriate administrative and legislative recommendations.

SEC. 3. The Authority shall have a Board of Directors composed of eleven (11) members as follows:

- a) City or municipal council majority floor leader, as Chairperson;
- b) City or municipal council minority floor leader;
- c) Chairperson of the city or municipal council Committee on Public Works;
- d) Chairperson of the city or municipal council Committee on Appropriations;
- e) City or municipal engineer;
- f) City or municipal planning and development officer;
- g) City or municipal administrator;
- h) DENR representatives; and
- i) Three (3) private sector representatives appointed by the city or municipal mayor

No member of the board shall, during his or her term, be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract entered into by the Authority or in any special privileges granted by the Authority. All contracts entered into in violation of this provision shall be null and void.

SEC. 4. The Board shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a) Formulate, prescribe, amend, and repeal rules and regulations to govern the conduct of operation of the Authority;
- b) Appoint the necessary personnel of the Authority and to fix their compensation in accordance with the existing laws;
- c) Suspend, remove or otherwise discipline for just cause any staff member appointed by the Board;
- d) Recommend the annual and supplemental budgets of the Authority;
- e) Render annual reports to the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government and to the city or municipal mayor and such special reports as may be requested; and
- f) Do such other acts and perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.