



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

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10390**



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

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS ALONG NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To any tourist, be they from other countries or locals, sanitation and toilets, more than anything else, play pivotal roles in ensuring a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable travel experience. Access to clean and well-maintained restroom facilities is not just a matter of convenience but also a fundamental aspect of public health and tourism sustainability.

Inadequate sanitation can lead to health risks and discomfort for tourists, potentially impacting their overall travel satisfaction. Furthermore, the availability or lack of proper sanitation facilities influences visitors' perception of a destination's hospitality and infrastructure. Additionally, the accessibility of toilet facilities in and along tourist destinations for people with disabilities greatly impacts the destination of choice.

Everyone needs to go to the toilet, and travelling on your way to your holiday destination is no exception; thus, this bill seeks to call attention to the absence of public restrooms along national and provincial highways and provide for their construction.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill 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. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Public Hygiene Support Facilities and Convenience Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall provide public restrooms along national and provincial highways to promote hygiene education and awareness among visitors, tourists, local communities, and other stakeholders.

SEC. 3. Public restrooms shall be constructed every thirty (30) to fifty (50) kilometers apart along national and provincial highways throughout the country. These shall be constructed within a distance of at least three (3) meters from the shoulder of the highway, provisions of existing zoning ordinances to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 4. The maintenance and supervision of the public restrooms shall be vested in the council or any non-governmental organization (NGO) of the particular barangay where it is situated. A reasonable service fee shall be levied on individuals who use the public restroom, the rates to be determined by the council and/or NGO.

SEC. 5. All collections of money arising from payments made for the use of the public restrooms shall accrue to the official account of the barangay as a Trust Fund, and all income derived from its operations shall be used for development projects of the barangay, subject to and in compliance with existing government accounting and auditing rules.

SEC. 6. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the Department of Tourism, the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the succeeding year following its enactment into law.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,