

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10809



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Flooding in urban and sub-urban areas in the Philippines has escalated from a seasonal inconvenience to a recurring humanitarian and economic crisis. While typhoons and heavy rainfall are natural phenomena, the severity and rapid onset of severe flooding are overwhelmingly man-made—driven largely by the unmitigated, habitual dumping of solid waste into streets, esteros, canals, and waterways.

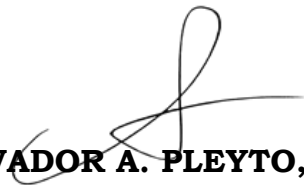
Every year, millions of tons of plastic waste, household trash, and commercial refuse clog city drainage systems, catch basins, pumping stations, and critical spillways. During typhoon season and heavy monsoons, this accumulated garbage forms dense impoundments that paralyze water conveyance systems, causing water levels to back up and submerge entire towns, highways, and residential communities within minutes. The result is billions of pesos in damaged infrastructure, loss of lives, destruction of property, and severe disruption to commerce.

Existing laws and local ordinances against littering have proven insufficient to deter offenders. Soft fines and lax enforcement have fostered a culture of disregard for public sanitation and environmental responsibility. Throwing a single plastic wrapper or dumping a bag of waste into a gutter may seem minor to an individual, but collectively, it acts as a primary trigger for catastrophic urban inundation.

This bill seeks to address this crisis by prohibiting all forms of littering in both public and private spaces, with aggravating penalties specifically targeting acts that obstruct, dump into, or contaminate drainage networks, waterways, and spillways. It elevates penalties from minor infractions to serious administrative

and criminal offenses, mandating scaled monetary fines, compulsory community service centered on waterway rehabilitation, and imprisonment for repeat or high-impact offenders.

By imposing stringent liability and reinforcing local enforcement mechanisms, this legislation aims to restore water infrastructure function, protect lives and livelihoods, and foster strict civic discipline regarding solid waste management. In view of the urgent need to protect public safety and mitigate flood disasters, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING ANTI-LITTERING MEASURES IN PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE PLACES, MANDATING AGGRAVATED PENALTIES FOR
OBSTRUCTING DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, CANALS, AND SPILLWAYS,
CREATING ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "Enhanced Anti-Littering and Drainage Protection Act Of 2026."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Recognizing that improper waste disposal directly causes localized and severe urban flooding by obstructing drainage infrastructure, the State shall enforce strict measures to eliminate littering, protect water conveyance channels, and safeguard public infrastructure and human life.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — For purposes of this Act:

1. Littering refers to the act of discarding, throwing, dumping, dropping, leaving, or placing garbage, trash, refuse, plastic waste, construction debris, or any organic/inorganic waste in unauthorized public or private locations.
2. Water Infrastructure and Conveyance Systems include canals, *esteros*, storm drains, catch basins, gutters, culverts, spillways, riverbanks, floodways, pumping stations, and retention basins.

3. Public Places include streets, sidewalks, highways, parks, bridges, public transit stations, plazas, government grounds, and open natural spaces.
4. Commercial/Bulk Littering refers to the illegal dumping of waste generated from business establishments, construction sites, industrial facilities, or large-scale transport operations.

SEC. 4. *Prohibited Acts.* — It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to:

1. Throw, drop, or discard any form of litter or waste in public places, open spaces, or private properties without authorization;
2. Dump, discharge, or deposit waste directly into or adjacent to any canal, *estero*, storm drain, catch basin, gutter, spillway, or riverbank;
3. Transport loose materials, trash, or construction debris without adequate coverings, leading to spillage onto public roads or drainage inlets;
4. Encroach upon or erect structures over drainage lines and spillways that restrict water flow or impede waste extraction activities by sanitation crews.

SEC. 5. *Schedule of Penalties.* — Any person found violating Section 4 of this Act shall be subject to the following penalties:

- First Offense:
 - A fine of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00); AND
 - Eight (8) hours of mandatory community service, consisting specifically of public waterway cleanup and drainage clearing within the local government unit (LGU) concerned.
- Second Offense:
 - A fine of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (₱15,000.00); AND
 - Twenty-four (24) hours of mandatory community service in waterway rehabilitation; AND
 - Mandatory attendance in a solid waste management seminar conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).
- Third and Subsequent Offenses:
 - A fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00); AND
 - Imprisonment for a period of not less than thirty (30) days but not more than six (6) months, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 6. *Aggravated Penalties for Direct Drainage Canal and Spillway Obstruction.* — If the act of littering or waste dumping is committed directly or adjacent to a drainage canal or spillway, or if the dumped waste causes quantifiable obstruction to water conveyance during a weather event:

1. The applicable fines under Section 5 shall be doubled;
2. Juridical entities (corporations, businesses, contractors) responsible for dumping debris into waterways shall face a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) for the first offense, immediate suspension of Business Permits, and criminal liability for corporate officers involved.

SEC. 7. *Enforcement Authority.* — The primary responsibility for enforcing this Act lies with local government units (LGUs) through their respective Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENRO/MENRO), Barangay Officials, Sanitation Inspectors, and designated Traffic/Sanitation Enforcers, in coordination with the DENR, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

SEC. 8. *Citizens' Reporting and Bounty System.* — To ensure strict monitoring, LGUs shall establish a digital reporting platform. Any citizen who provides verified video or photographic evidence leading to the citation and collection of fines from a violator shall be entitled to an incentive equal to twenty percent (20%) of the collected administrative fine.

SEC. 9. *Public Education and Signage.* — All LGUs, in coordination with the DPWH and DENR, shall post clear, highly visible anti-littering warning notices near all major drainage inlets, bridges, *esteros*, and spillways specifying the penalties prescribed under this Act.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* — The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the budget of the DENR and respective LGUs. Thereafter, fifty percent (50%) of all fines collected under this Act shall accrue to a dedicated fund for the LGU where the violation occurred.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, or local ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,