

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22



Introduced by REP. JEFFERSON F. KHONGHUN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ISSUES AND IRREGULARITIES IN THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS WITH PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION, AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PROVISION OF WATER SERVICES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DEVELOPING A STRONG LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, FAIRNESS, THE EMPOWERMENT OF WATER DISTRICTS, AND THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSUMING PUBLIC'S WELFARE

WHEREAS, water is not merely a commodity; it is life itself. It sustains ecosystems, supports food security, underpins health and hygiene, and upholds the dignity of every person. As such, access to safe, clean, and affordable water is not a privilege, but a fundamental human right;

WHEREAS, international law recognizes the human right to water and sanitation, entitling everyone, without discrimination, to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use;

WHEREAS, PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation (PrimeWater) is a private water service provider owned by the Villar Group, which has entered into numerous Joint Venture Agreements (JVAs) with local water districts across the Philippines, including Subic in Zambales, effectively placing the company in a position of significant influence over public water utilities;

WHEREAS, numerous reports and public testimonies have highlighted persistent inefficiencies in water supply and service delivery under PrimeWater's management, including prolonged service interruptions, low water pressure, delayed leak repairs, and failure to fulfill infrastructure development commitments;

WHEREAS, consumers, local stakeholders, and civil society organizations have consistently raised grievances regarding PrimeWater's lack of transparency and accountability, citing the company's unresponsiveness to complaints, weak grievance redress mechanisms, and perceived prioritization of profit over the public's right to water;

WHEREAS, such operational deficiencies and corporate practices raise serious concerns about the suitability of public-private partnerships in the water sector, particularly when public welfare is subordinated to private gain, thereby eroding public trust and weakening institutional safeguards;

WHEREAS, in response to mounting complaints, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered an investigation into PrimeWater's service performance, with the Local Water Utilities Administration now undertaking a comprehensive review of the company's operations across its various JVAs;

WHEREAS, residents of Subic, Zambales have repeatedly expressed severe frustrations over PrimeWater's unreliable service, including multiple emergency disruptions in April 2025 alone, with some outages lasting nearly an entire day and affecting several barangays, thereby exposing systemic operational weaknesses in PrimeWater's Subic operations;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Bayan of Subic, Zambales unanimously adopted Resolution No. 29, Series of 2025, urging the Subic Water District (SWD) to terminate its JVA with PrimeWater due to chronic service failures and widespread public dissatisfaction;

WHEREAS, the local council expressed grave concern over PrimeWater's substandard performance since the JVA's inception in 2018 and emphasized the urgent need to prioritize the welfare of constituents in light of unresolved service deficiencies;

WHEREAS, the SWD has served a notice of pre-termination to PrimeWater, citing breach of contract provisions and continued poor service delivery—grounds also raised during public hearings convened by the municipal council;

WHEREAS, this move reflects the growing discontent among local governments with privatized utility services and underscores the broader need for stronger governance, accountability, and oversight in public-private partnerships;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives directs the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the issues and irregularities in the Joint Venture Agreements entered into by local water districts with PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation, and their impact on the provision of water services, with the end in view of developing a strong legal and regulatory framework that ensures transparency, accountability, fairness, the empowerment of water districts, and the protection of the consuming public's welfare.

Adopted.


JEFFERSON F. KHONGHUN
1st District, Zambales