



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Executive Directors
River Basin Control Office
Manila Bay Coordinating Office
National Water Resources Board
Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office

The General Manager
Laguna Lake Development Authority

All Bureau Directors

All Regional Executive Directors

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO COMMITTEE MEETING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOUSE BILLS 5187, 5770, AND 6142 OR "AN ACT ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" FROM THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 20 November 2024

In reference to the electronic letter received by our Office, the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives is inviting the Department to a meeting on **25 November 2024, Monday, 09:00 AM at Speaker De Venecia Hall, South Wing Annex Building, House of Representatives** to deliberate on the following legislative measures:

- **House Bill No. 5187** - "AN ACT ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES." by Rep. Ernesto M. Dionisio Jr.;
- **House Bill No. 5770** - "AN ACT ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES." by Rep. Eduardo C. Villanueva; and

- **House Bill No. 6142** - “AN ACT ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.” by Rep. Patrick Michael D. Vargas.

In this regard, may we respectfully request for **comments/recommendations on the abovementioned bills, in anticipation of the Committee meeting**, as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them on or before **Friday, 22 November 2024, at 5 PM** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the Letter-Invitation, Agenda, and the House Bills for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

Cc: Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

NOTICE OF MEETING

19 November 2024

HON. MARIA ANTONIA “TONI” YULO-LOYZAGA
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Dear *Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga*:

The Committee on Health of the House of Representatives respectfully invites you or your representative to its meeting on **25 November 2024 (Monday), 9:00 A.M.**, at **Speaker De Venecia Hall, South Wing Annex Building, House of Representatives**, as a resource person on House Bills Numbered 5187, 5770, and 6142 – Ensuring Safe Drinking Water.

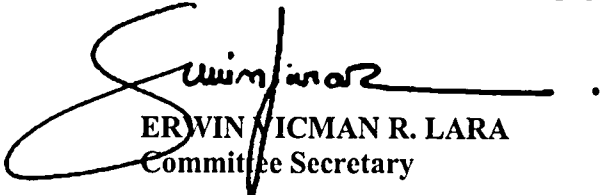
Attached are the electronic copies of the agenda of the committee meeting, and House bills as filed, for your reference. The Committee would appreciate receiving your comments and recommendations at least one day before the scheduled meeting.

For inquiries, please contact the Committee Secretariat: Mr. Niño De Jesus at 09453204477, Mr. Jophel Ryan S. Angustia at 09060069788, or Mr. Bernardo P. Yruma at 09751348077.

Very truly yours,

HON. CIRIACO B. GATO, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Health

FOR AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON:


ERWIN NICMAN R. LARA
Committee Secretary



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

A G E N D A

DATE : November 25, 2024 (Monday)
TIME : 9:00 A.M.
VENUE : Speaker De Venecia Hall, South Wing Annex
Building, House of Representatives

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- V. Recognition of Members and Resource Persons
- VI. Opening Remarks of the Chair
- VII. Briefing by the Philippine National AIDS Council on the Philippine National HIV-AIDS Program
- VIII. Committee Deliberation on House Bills Ensuring Safe Drinking Water
 1. **H.B. No. 5187**, entitled, "AN ACT ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," authored by Rep. Ernesto "Ernix" M. Dionisio, Jr.
 2. **H.B. No. 5770**, entitled, "AN ACT ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," authored by Rep. Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva
 3. **H.B. No. 6142**, entitled, "AN ACT ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," authored by Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas

IX. Committee Deliberation on House Bills Modernizing National Hospitals

1. **HB No. 10812**, entitled, “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE CHILDRENS MEDICAL CENTER (PCMC), INCREASING AND REORGANIZING ITS ADMINISTRATION, STRENGTHENING THE PEDIATRIC AND TERTIARY CARE FACILITIES, ENHANCED BY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,” authored by Rep. Michael L. Romero

2. **HB No. 10813**, entitled, “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH (NCMH), INCREASING AND REORGANIZING ITS ADMINISTRATION, TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE, DEDICATED, PREVENTIVE, CURATIVE AND REHABILITATIVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE, ENHANCED BY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,” authored by Rep. Michael L. Romero

X. Other Matters

XI. Adjournment

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6142



INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE
ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations affirms the fundamental human right to water and sanitation, stating that it is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity and a prerequisite for the realization of all human rights.¹ This recognition calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, help capacity-building and technology transfer to help developing countries to provide safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

The Philippines, despite being surrounded by natural bodies of water, remain in need of safe and accessible water supplies. According to the World Health Organization, one out of 10 Filipinos still have no access to improved water resources² and often have to rely on unimproved, unsafe, and unsustainable water sources.

¹ United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. November 2002. General Comment No. 15. The right to water. https://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/human_right_to_water.shtml (Accessed 26 October 2022)

² World Health Organization (2019) Water shortage in the Philippines threatens sustainable development and health. <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/water-shortage-in-the-philippines-threatens-sustainable-development-and-health> (Accessed 26 October 2022)

In order to have access to safe drinking water, some Filipinos depend on water refilling stations. According to the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines, the water provided by these private businesses may test negative for microorganisms, but containers still may contain bacteria due to unwell kept containers and improper sanitation procedures.

Keeping one's family safe from waterborne diseases such as Amoebiasis, Diarrhea, Cholera, and Typhoid Fever would be very difficult. There are still thousands of Filipinos left behind. Those that are unable to rely on water refilling stations are vulnerable. The lack of safe drinking water has affected many lives in the country. In 2016, acute watery Diarrhoeal disease has victimized 139,000 lives, which led this disease to be part of the top 10 leading causes of death in the Philippines. In 2014, there was a cholera outbreak in North Cotabato with 438 persons tested positive for cholera and 46 others tested positive for amoebiasis.³ Other factors such as climate change and natural disastrous phenomena has contributed to the worsening of the issue.

In response to the immediate need to ensure the quality of drinking water, in December 2017, the Department of Health (DOH) presented the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW) to various stakeholders, embodied in the DOH Administrative Order No. 10 series of 2017. The PNSDW prescribes the standards and procedures on drinking-water quality aiming to protect the public and consumer's health.

However, as of 2020, nearly 5 million Filipinos still rely on unsafe and unsustainable water sources, 9 million lack access to improved sanitation and there remains the water and sanitation crisis that need to be addressed.⁴ Thus, existing laws and policies must be revisited and must strengthen its focus on quality assessment and increasing access to safe water for the health and welfare of all Filipino families.

It is the duty of the State play an active role in ensuring all Filipinos have safe and potable drinking water by implementing a comprehensive management program on water safety planning, including water quality surveillance, adoption of risk management strategies for the protection of water supply systems, and the use of appropriate tools and instruments to properly monitor and enforce quality drinking water standards.

³ Philstar Global (2015) Diseases you can get from unsafe drinking watre. <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/health-and-family/2015/09/06/1471788/diseases-you-can-get-unsafe-drinking-water> (Accessed 26 October 2022)

⁴ Water.org. 2020. Philippines' Water and Sanitation Crisis. <https://water.org/our-impact/where-we-work/philippines/> (Accessed 26 October 2022)

This bill seeks to amend the existing provisions of the Sanitation Code of the Philippines on water supply. Among others, it requires the physical, bacteriological and general systematic chemical and over-all examination of water quality every two months. The result of such testing must be submitted to the Department of Health (DOH) for appropriate action and to the consumers so that they will be properly apprised of the quality of the water they are consuming.

This proposed legislation aims to require all water service providers to prepare a water safety plan, and submit the same to the DOH for approval. They shall also furnish their customers an annual consumer confidence report which must include information regarding their current treatment techniques, monitoring procedures, and level of contaminants in the water system, among others.

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



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6142

INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT

**ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE
ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES 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 "*Safe Drinking
Water Act.*"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall pursue a policy of ensuring the health of the Filipino people through the provision of safe drinking water. Towards this end, the State shall promote the use of appropriate tools and instruments and control mechanisms and adopt risk management strategies for the protection of the entire water supply system against contamination that will adversely affect human health. The State shall also implement a comprehensive management program on water safety planning including water quality surveillance that ensures the safety of drinking water in all settings and ensure compliance with national standards for drinking water and other environmental laws affecting drinking water quality.

SECTION 3. Section 11 of Presidential Decree No. 856 is hereby amended to read as follows;

Section 11. Types of Water Examinations Required

The following examinations are required for drinking water:

- a) Initial examination. The physical, chemical and bacteriological examinations of water from newly constructed systems or sources are required before they are operated and opened for public use.

Examination of water for possible radio-active contamination should also be done initially.

- b) Periodic examination. Water from existing sources is subject to **PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL**, bacteriological **AND OVER-ALL QUALITY** examination as often as possible but the interval shall not be longer than ~~{six}~~ **TWO** months, ~~{while general systematic chemical examination shall be conducted every 12 months or oftener. Examination of water sources shall be conducted yearly for possible radioactive contamination,}~~ **UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS; PROVIDED, THAT NOTHING HEREIN SHALL RESTRICT THE DEPARTMENT FROM CONDUCTING RANDOM WATER QUALITY EXAMINATION AS OFTEN AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY AND PROPER.**

SECTION 4. New Section 11-A and Section 11-B of Presidential Decree No. 856 are hereby inserted to read as follows:

SECTION 11-A. PERMITS REQUIRED

DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS, WATER LABORATORIES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS WITH DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS CATERING TO THE PUBLIC SHALL BE REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE FOLLOWING PERMITS SHALL BE SECURED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES, AS THE CASE MAY BE:

- a) **CERTIFICATE OF POTABILITY OF DRINKING WATER TO OBTAINED BY DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS;**
- b) **CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL WATER LABORATORIES AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS THAT SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE DRINKING WATER SAFETY PROGRAM;**
- c) **CERTIFICATE OF PRODUCT REGISTRATION OF WATER SUPPLY MATERIALS, APPURTENANCES, TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES OR DEVICES TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL ENTITIES ENGAGED IN THE PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY TO THE PUBLIC,**
- d) **CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL CONDUCT CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS, WATER QUALITY TREATMENT, WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND WATER SAFETY PLANNING FROM THE DEPARTMENT;**
- e) **CERTIFICATE OF WATER SAFETY PLAN ACCEPTANCE;**

- f) **DRINKING WATER SITE CLEARANCE TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES INTENDING TO DEVELOP A DRINKING WATER SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION; PROVIDED, THAT NO DRINKING WATER SYSTEM SHALL BE INSTALLED AND OPERATED WITHOUT SUCH CLEARANCE;**
- g) **OPERATIONAL PERMIT, WHICH MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE USING A DRINKING WATER SYSTEM;**
- h) **SANITARY CLEARANCE FOR ALL WATER DELIVERY VEHICLES, MOBILE WATER TANKERS AND SIMILAR VEHICLES, INCLUDING ITS APPURTENANCES.**

COVERED ESTABLISHMENTS SHALL ALSO REGISTER PORTABLE WATER TEST KITS AND WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY OR DEVICES WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 11-B. WATER SAFETY PLAN

WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, ALL DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL DEVELOP WATER SAFETY PLANS FOR THEIR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, AND ENSURE ITS IMPLEMENTATION AFTER ITS APPROVAL. AN APPROVED WATER SAFETY PLAN SHALL BE VALID FOR THREE YEARS, UNLESS SUSPENDED OR SOONER REVOKED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP TOOLS, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR WATER SAFETY PLAN PROCESSES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

SECTION 5. Section 12 of Presidential Decree No. 856 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. Examining Laboratories and Submission of Water Samples

The examination of drinking water shall be performed only in private or government laboratories duly accredited by the Department. **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESCRIBE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES WITH RESPECT TO THE CONDUCT, MANNER AND MEASURES REQUIRED FOR THE EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY.**

It is the responsibility of operators of water systems to submit to accredited laboratories water samples for examination in a manner and at such intervals prescribed **UNDER SECTION 11 OF THIS ACT OR** by the Department **THROUGH APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS.**

THE RESULTS OF SUCH MONITORING SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION, AND TO THE CONSUMERS CONCERNED. THE SAME SHALL ALSO

BE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH AN APPLICABLE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL, OR FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE TREATMENT TECHNIQUE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OR FAILS TO PERFORM SUCH MONITORING, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ORDER THE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OR TAKE OTHER STEPS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF DRINKING WATER.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF SUCH OCCURRENCE, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CONCERNED ESTABLISHMENT. THE NOTICE SHALL CONSIST OF, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING;

- a) NATURE OF THE VIOLATION;**
- b) CONTAMINANT LEVEL OF WATER SUPPLY;**
- c) POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS TO THE POPULATION;**
- d) POPULATION AT RISK;**
- e) STEPS BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT VIOLATION;**
- f) TELEPHONE NUMBER OR CONTACT NUMBER OF THE OWNER, OPERATOR OR DESIGNEE OF THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM;**
- g) NECESSITY OF SEEKING ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES; AND**
- h) PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT SHALL BE TAKEN BY CONSUMERS UNTIL THE VIOLATION IS CORRECTED.**

SECTION 6. A new Section 12-A is hereby inserted to read as follows;

SECTION 12-A. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

A DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL FURNISH ITS CUSTOMERS AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE QUALITY OF THE DRINKING WATER IT PROVIDES AND THE CONTAMINANTS, IF ANY, FOUND THEREIN.

THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING;

- a) INFORMATION ON THE SOURCE OF THE WATER DISTRIBUTED;**

- b) ENUMERATION OF PRIMARY PARAMETERS INDICATED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER (PNSDW);
- c) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL INDICATED BY PNSDW;
- d) CURRENT TREATMENT TECHNIQUES UTILIZED BY THE DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER;
- e) MONITORING PROCEDURES UTILIZED BY THE DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER;
- f) LEVEL OF CONTAMINANT IN THE WATER SYSTEM WITHIN THE YEAR;
- g) ANY CONTAMINANT FOR WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A VIOLATION OF THE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL DURING THE YEAR CONCERNED, AND A BRIEF STATEMENT IN PLAIN LANGUAGE REGARDING THE HEALTH CONCERNS THAT RESULTED IN THE REGULATION OF THE CONTAMINANT, AS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
- h) INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
- i) A STATEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF CONTAMINANTS IN THE DRINKING WATER DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THAT THE DRINKING WATER POSES A HEALTH RISK AND THAT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CONTAMINANTS AND POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE DEPARTMENT;
- j) MEASURES THAT MAY BE ADOPTED BY THE CONSUMERS TO KEEP THEIR WATER SUPPLY FREE FROM CONTAMINATION; AND
- k) SUCH OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS EVERY TWELVE (12) MONTHS THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEDIA. HAND DELIVERY, POSTING, OR OTHER METHODS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 7. Penalties. - A water service provider that fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be liable for a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) for every day of continuing violation, without prejudice to any

other penalties that may be imposed upon it in accordance with other relevant laws, rules and regulation.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Health, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders and relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 5770

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT
ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is blessed with copious amount of water with a total annual renewable water resources of 479 billion cubic meters (m³) from its surface water and groundwater sources. This translates into an annual per capita availability of about 6,100 m³, which is twice that of the rest of Asia, and six times the global scarcity threshold of 1,000 m³.¹

Ironically, however, as of 2017, around 8.5 million Filipinos still have no access to clean drinking water, and have to rely on unimproved, unsafe and unsustainable water sources, according to the National Water Resource Board.

Aside from access to clean water, water contamination remains a pressing issue, with heavy inorganic pollutants present in drinking water sources. According to environmental organization Greenpeace, five out of 18 artesian wells in Benguet and Bulacan were found to contain nitrate

¹ Philippines: Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Assessment, Strategy, and Road Map. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Asian Development Bank, 2013.

levels well above the safety limit set by the World Health Organization.² Inorganic contaminants such as nitrate may cause serious health problems to the population, and may even lead to death.³ For example, in 2011, 11 people from Barangay Valencia, Cebu died due to typhoid fever after drinking water from unsafe water sources.⁴

Thus, prolonged inaction on this issue may lead to a rise in foodborne and waterborne diseases. According to Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, “an estimated one-half of people in developing countries are suffering from diseases caused either directly by infection through the consumption of contaminated water or food, or indirectly by disease-carrying organisms such as mosquitoes, that breed in water.”⁵ In the case of the Philippines, 50% of typhoid cases are due to water pollution, sanitation conditions and hygiene practices. In fact, from January to April 2018 alone, the Department of Health recorded 5,455 cases of typhoid fever that resulted in 10 reported cases of death.⁶

Given this, it is imperative that the State play an active role in ensuring all Filipinos have safe and potable drinking water by implementing a comprehensive management program on water safety planning, including water quality surveillance, adoption of risk management strategies for the protection of water supply systems, and the use of appropriate tools and instruments to properly monitor and enforce quality drinking water standards. This bill seeks to amend the existing provisions of the Sanitation Code of the Philippines on water supply. Among others, it requires the physical, bacteriological and general systematic chemical and over-all examination of water quality every two months. The result of such testing must be submitted to the Department of Health (DOH) for appropriate action and to the consumers so that they will be properly apprised of the quality of the water they are consuming.

This bill also requires all water service providers to prepare a water safety plan, and submit the same to the DOH for approval. They shall also furnish their customers an annual consumer confidence report which must include information regarding their current treatment techniques,

² 2018, March 8. When water causes diseases and deaths. Retrieved from: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2018/03/08/when-water-causes-diseases-and-deaths/> (date last accessed: July 9, 2019).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Food and Waterborne Diseases Monthly Surveillance Report No. 4. Department of Health. January to April 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/statistics/2018%20Food%20and%20Water%20Borne%20Diseases%20Morbidity%20Week%201-21.pdf> (date last accessed: July 11, 2019).

monitoring procedures, and level of contaminants in the water system, among others.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Villanueva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5770

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the*
2 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*

3
4 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Safe
5 Drinking Water Act."
6

7 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall pursue a policy
8 of ensuring the health of the Filipino people through the provision of safe
9 drinking water. Towards this end, the State shall promote the use of
10 appropriate tools and instruments and control mechanisms and adopt risk
11 management strategies for the protection of the entire water supply
12 system against contamination that will adversely affect human health.
13 The State shall also implement a comprehensive management program
14 on water safety planning including water quality surveillance that ensures
15 the safety of drinking water in all settings and ensure compliance with
16 national standards for drinking water and other environmental laws
17 affecting drinking water quality.

18
19 **SEC. 3.** Section 11 of Presidential Decree No. 856 is hereby
20 amended to read as follows:
21

1 **Section 11. Types of Water Examinations Required**

2
3 The following examinations are required for drinking water:

4
5 (a) Initial examination. The physical, chemical and bacteriological
6 examinations of water from newly constructed systems or
7 sources are required before they are operated and opened for
8 public use. Examination of water for possible radio-active
9 contamination should also be done initially.

10
11 (b) Periodic examination. Water from existing sources is subject
12 to PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, bacteriological AND OVER-ALL
13 QUALITY examination as often as possible but the interval shall
14 not be longer than [six] TWO (2) months, [while general
15 systematic chemical examination shall be conducted every 12
16 months or oftener. Examination of water sources shall be
17 conducted yearly for possible radioactive contamination,]
18 UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT
19 THROUGH APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS; *PROVIDED*,
20 THAT NOTHING HEREIN SHALL RESTRICT THE
21 DEPARTMENT FROM CONDUCTING RANDOM WATER
22 QUALITY EXAMINATION AS OFTEN AS IT MAY DEEM
23 NECESSARY AND PROPER.

24
25 **SEC. 4.** New Section 11-A and Section 11-B of Presidential Decree
26 No. 856 are hereby inserted to read as follows:

27
28 **SECTION 11-A. PERMITS REQUIRED**

29
30 DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS, WATER
31 LABORATORIES, AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS WITH
32 DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS CATERING TO THE PUBLIC
33 SHALL BE REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT. FOR
34 THIS PURPOSE, THE FOLLOWING PERMITS SHALL BE
35 SECURED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR LOCAL HEALTH
36 AUTHORITIES, AS THE CASE MAY BE:

- 37
38 a) CERTIFICATE OF POTABILITY OF DRINKING WATER TO
39 BE OBTAINED BY DRINKING WATER SERVICE
40 PROVIDERS;
41
42 b) CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION TO BE OBTAINED
43 BY ALL WATER LABORATORIES AND TRAINING

1 INSTITUTIONS THAT SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE
2 DRINKING WATER SAFETY PROGRAM;

- 3
4 c) CERTIFICATE OF PRODUCT REGISTRATION OF
5 WATER SUPPLY MATERIALS, APPURTENANCES,
6 TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES OR DEVICES TO BE
7 OBTAINED BY ALL ENTITIES ENGAGED IN THE
8 PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY TO THE
9 PUBLIC;
- 10
11 d) CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY TO BE OBTAINED BY
12 ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL CONDUCT CAPACITY
13 BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS,
14 WATER QUALITY TREATMENT, WATER QUALITY
15 MONITORING AND WATER SAFETY PLANNING FROM
16 THE DEPARTMENT;
- 17
18 e) CERTIFICATE OF WATER SAFETY PLAN ACCEPTANCE;
- 19
20 f) DRINKING WATER SITE CLEARANCE TO BE OBTAINED
21 BY ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES INTENDING TO
22 DEVELOP A DRINKING WATER SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC
23 CONSUMPTION; *PROVIDED*, THAT NO DRINKING
24 WATER SYSTEM SHALL BE INSTALLED AND
25 OPERATED WITHOUT SUCH CLEARANCE;
- 26
27 g) OPERATIONAL PERMIT, WHICH MUST BE OBTAINED
28 BEFORE USING A DRINKING WATER SYSTEM; AND
- 29
30 h) SANITARY CLEARANCE FOR ALL WATER DELIVERY
31 VEHICLES, MOBILE WATER TANKERS AND SIMILAR
32 VEHICLES, INCLUDING ITS APPURTENANCES.

33
34 COVERED ESTABLISHMENTS SHALL ALSO REGISTER
35 PORTABLE WATER TEST KITS AND WATER TREATMENT
36 TECHNOLOGY OR DEVICES WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

37
38 **SECTION 11-B. WATER SAFETY PLAN**

39
40 WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS
41 ACT, ALL DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL
42 DEVELOP WATER SAFETY PLANS FOR THEIR WATER
43 SUPPLY SYSTEMS, AND ENSURE ITS IMPLEMENTATION

1 AFTER ITS APPROVAL. AN APPROVED WATER SAFETY
2 PLAN SHALL BE VALID FOR THREE (3) YEARS, UNLESS
3 SUSPENDED OR SOONER REVOKED BY THE
4 DEPARTMENT.

5
6 FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP
7 TOOLS, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR WATER
8 SAFETY PLAN PROCESSES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

9
10 **SEC. 5.** Section 12 of Presidential Decree No. 856 is hereby
11 amended to read as follows:

12
13 **Section 12. Examining Laboratories and Submission of**
14 **Water Samples**

15
16 The examination of drinking water shall be performed only in
17 private or government laboratories duly accredited by the
18 Department. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESCRIBE
19 APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES WITH RESPECT TO THE
20 CONDUCT, MANNER, AND MEASURES REQUIRED FOR THE
21 EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY.

22
23 It is the responsibility of operators of water systems to submit to
24 accredited laboratories water samples for examination in a
25 manner and at such intervals prescribed UNDER SECTION 11
26 OF THIS ACT OR by the Department THROUGH
27 APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS.

28
29 THE RESULTS OF SUCH MONITORING SHALL BE
30 SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROPRIATE
31 ACTION, AND TO THE CONSUMERS CONCERNED. THE
32 SAME SHALL ALSO BE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY IN THE
33 ESTABLISHMENT.

34
35 IN THE EVENT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT FAILS TO
36 COMPLY WITH AN APPLICABLE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT
37 LEVEL, OR FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE TREATMENT
38 TECHNIQUE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OR FAILS
39 TO PERFORM SUCH MONITORING, THE DEPARTMENT
40 SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ORDER THE IMMEDIATE
41 SUSPENSION OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE
42 ESTABLISHMENT OR TAKE OTHER STEPS AS MAY BE

1 NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF DRINKING
2 WATER.

3
4 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE PUBLIC
5 OF SUCH OCCURRENCE, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE
6 CONCERNED ESTABLISHMENT. THE NOTICE SHALL
7 CONSIST OF, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- 8
9 a) NATURE OF THE VIOLATION;
10
11 b) CONTAMINANT LEVEL OF WATER SUPPLY;
12
13 c) POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS TO THE POPULATION;
14
15 d) POPULATION AT RISK;
16
17 e) STEPS BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT VIOLATION;
18
19 f) TELEPHONE NUMBER OR CONTACT NUMBER OF THE
20 OWNER, OPERATOR OR DESIGNEE OF THE PUBLIC
21 WATER SYSTEM;
22
23 g) NECESSITY OF SEEKING ALTERNATIVE WATER
24 SUPPLIES; AND
25
26 h) PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT SHALL BE TAKEN BY
27 CONSUMERS UNTIL THE VIOLATION IS CORRECTED.

28
29 **SEC. 6.** A new Section 12-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:

30
31 **SECTION 12-A. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

32
33 A DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL FURNISH
34 ITS CUSTOMERS AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE QUALITY
35 OF THE DRINKING WATER IT PROVIDES AND THE
36 CONTAMINANTS, IF ANY, FOUND THEREIN.

37
38 THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE
39 LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- 40
41 a) INFORMATION ON THE SOURCE OF THE WATER
42 DISTRIBUTED;
43

- 1 b) ENUMERATION OF PRIMARY PARAMETERS
2 INDICATED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
3 STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER (PNSDW);
4
- 5 c) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL INDICATED BY PNSDW;
6
- 7 d) CURRENT TREATMENT TECHNIQUES UTILIZED BY
8 THE DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER;
9
- 10 e) MONITORING PROCEDURES UTILIZED BY THE
11 DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER;
12
- 13 f) LEVEL OF CONTAMINANT IN THE WATER SYSTEM
14 WITHIN THE YEAR;
15
- 16 g) ANY CONTAMINANT FOR WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A
17 VIOLATION OF THE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL
18 DURING THE YEAR CONCERNED, AND A BRIEF
19 STATEMENT IN PLAIN LANGUAGE REGARDING THE
20 HEALTH CONCERNS THAT RESULTED IN THE
21 REGULATION OF THE CONTAMINANT, AS PROVIDED
22 BY THE DEPARTMENT;
23
- 24 h) INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF UNREGULATED
25 CONTAMINANTS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
26
- 27 i) A STATEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF
28 CONTAMINANTS IN THE DRINKING WATER DOES NOT
29 NECESSARILY INDICATE THAT THE DRINKING WATER
30 POSES A HEALTH RISK AND THAT MORE
31 INFORMATION ABOUT CONTAMINANTS AND
32 POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS CAN BE OBTAINED BY
33 CALLING THE DEPARTMENT;
34
- 35 j) MEASURES THAT MAY BE ADOPTED BY THE
36 CONSUMERS TO KEEP THEIR WATER SUPPLY FREE
37 FROM CONTAMINATION; AND
38
- 39 k) SUCH OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS THE
40 DEPARTMENT DEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC
41 EDUCATION.
42

1 THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED TO
2 CONSUMERS EVERY TWELVE (12) MONTHS THROUGH
3 ELECTRONIC MEDIA, HAND DELIVERY, POSTING, OR
4 OTHER METHODS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
5

6 **SEC. 7. Penalties.** – A water service provider that fails to comply
7 with the provisions of this Act shall be liable for a fine of Fifty Thousand
8 Pesos (Php50,000.00) for every day of continuing violation, without
9 prejudice to any other penalties that may be imposed, in accordance with
10 other relevant laws, rules and regulations.
11

12 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to effectively
13 carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General
14 Appropriations Act.
15

16 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety
17 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in
18 consultation with the concerned stakeholders and relevant government
19 agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
20 effective implementation of this Act.
21

22 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders,
23 ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this
24 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
25

26 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is
27 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the Act shall not be
28 affected by such declaration.
29

30 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
31 from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
32 newspapers of general circulation.
33

34 ***Approved,***

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6142



INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE
ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations affirms the fundamental human right to water and sanitation, stating that it is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity and a prerequisite for the realization of all human rights.¹ This recognition calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, help capacity-building and technology transfer to help developing countries to provide safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

The Philippines, despite being surrounded by natural bodies of water, remain in need of safe and accessible water supplies. According to the World Health Organization, one out of 10 Filipinos still have no access to improved water resources² and often have to rely on unimproved, unsafe, and unsustainable water sources.

¹ United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. November 2002. General Comment No. 15. The right to water. https://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/human_right_to_water.shtml (Accessed 26 October 2022)

² World Health Organization (2019) Water shortage in the Philippines threatens sustainable development and health. <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/water-shortage-in-the-philippines-threatens-sustainable-development-and-health> (Accessed 26 October 2022)

In order to have access to safe drinking water, some Filipinos depend on water refilling stations. According to the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines, the water provided by these private businesses may test negative for microorganisms, but containers still may contain bacteria due to unwell kept containers and improper sanitation procedures.

Keeping one's family safe from waterborne diseases such as Amoebiasis, Diarrhea, Cholera, and Typhoid Fever would be very difficult. There are still thousands of Filipinos left behind. Those that are unable to rely on water refilling stations are vulnerable. The lack of safe drinking water has affected many lives in the country. In 2016, acute watery Diarrhoeal disease has victimized 139,000 lives, which led this disease to be part of the top 10 leading causes of death in the Philippines. In 2014, there was a cholera outbreak in North Cotabato with 438 persons tested positive for cholera and 46 others tested positive for amoebiasis.³ Other factors such as climate change and natural disastrous phenomena has contributed to the worsening of the issue.

In response to the immediate need to ensure the quality of drinking water, in December 2017, the Department of Health (DOH) presented the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW) to various stakeholders, embodied in the DOH Administrative Order No. 10 series of 2017. The PNSDW prescribes the standards and procedures on drinking-water quality aiming to protect the public and consumer's health.

However, as of 2020, nearly 5 million Filipinos still rely on unsafe and unsustainable water sources, 9 million lack access to improved sanitation and there remains the water and sanitation crisis that need to be addressed.⁴ Thus, existing laws and policies must be revisited and must strengthen its focus on quality assessment and increasing access to safe water for the health and welfare of all Filipino families.

It is the duty of the State play an active role in ensuring all Filipinos have safe and potable drinking water by implementing a comprehensive management program on water safety planning, including water quality surveillance, adoption of risk management strategies for the protection of water supply systems, and the use of appropriate tools and instruments to properly monitor and enforce quality drinking water standards.

³ Philstar Global (2015) Diseases you can get from unsafe drinking water. <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/health-and-family/2015/09/06/1471788/diseases-you-can-get-unsafe-drinking-water> (Accessed 26 October 2022)

⁴ Water.org. 2020. Philippines' Water and Sanitation Crisis. <https://water.org/our-impact/where-we-work/philippines/> (Accessed 26 October 2022)

This bill seeks to amend the existing provisions of the Sanitation Code of the Philippines on water supply. Among others, it requires the physical, bacteriological and general systematic chemical and over-all examination of water quality every two months. The result of such testing must be submitted to the Department of Health (DOH) for appropriate action and to the consumers so that they will be properly apprised of the quality of the water they are consuming.

This proposed legislation aims to require all water service providers to prepare a water safety plan, and submit the same to the DOH for approval. They shall also furnish their customers an annual consumer confidence report which must include information regarding their current treatment techniques, monitoring procedures, and level of contaminants in the water system, among others.

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



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6142

INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE
ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES 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 "*Safe Drinking Water Act.*"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall pursue a policy of ensuring the health of the Filipino people through the provision of safe drinking water. Towards this end, the State shall promote the use of appropriate tools and instruments and control mechanisms and adopt risk management strategies for the protection of the entire water supply system against contamination that will adversely affect human health. The State shall also implement a comprehensive management program on water safety planning including water quality surveillance that ensures the safety of drinking water in all settings and ensure compliance with national standards for drinking water and other environmental laws affecting drinking water quality.

SECTION 3. Section 11 of Presidential Decree No. 856 is hereby amended to read as follows;

Section 11. Types of Water Examinations Required

The following examinations are required for drinking water:

- a) Initial examination. The physical, chemical and bacteriological examinations of water from newly constructed systems or sources are required before they are operated and opened for public use.

Examination of water for possible radio-active contamination should also be done initially.

- b) Periodic examination. Water from existing sources is subject to **PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL**, bacteriological **AND OVER-ALL QUALITY** examination as often as possible but the interval shall not be longer than ~~{six}~~ **TWO** months, ~~{while general systematic chemical examination shall be conducted every 12 months or oftener. Examination of water sources shall be conducted yearly for possible radioactive contamination,}~~ **UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS; PROVIDED, THAT NOTHING HEREIN SHALL RESTRICT THE DEPARTMENT FROM CONDUCTING RANDOM WATER QUALITY EXAMINATION AS OFTEN AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY AND PROPER.**

SECTION 4. New Section 11-A and Section 11-B of Presidential Decree No. 856 are hereby inserted to read as follows:

SECTION 11-A. PERMITS REQUIRED

DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS, WATER LABORATORIES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS WITH DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS CATERING TO THE PUBLIC SHALL BE REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE FOLLOWING PERMITS SHALL BE SECURED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES, AS THE CASE MAY BE:

- a) **CERTIFICATE OF POTABILITY OF DRINKING WATER TO OBTAINED BY DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS;**
- b) **CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL WATER LABORATORIES AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS THAT SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE DRINKING WATER SAFETY PROGRAM;**
- c) **CERTIFICATE OF PRODUCT REGISTRATION OF WATER SUPPLY MATERIALS, APPURTENANCES, TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES OR DEVICES TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL ENTITIES ENGAGED IN THE PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY TO THE PUBLIC,**
- d) **CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL CONDUCT CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS, WATER QUALITY TREATMENT, WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND WATER SAFETY PLANNING FROM THE DEPARTMENT;**
- e) **CERTIFICATE OF WATER SAFETY PLAN ACCEPTANCE;**

- f) **DRINKING WATER SITE CLEARANCE TO BE OBTAINED BY ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES INTENDING TO DEVELOP A DRINKING WATER SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION; PROVIDED, THAT NO DRINKING WATER SYSTEM SHALL BE INSTALLED AND OPERATED WITHOUT SUCH CLEARANCE;**
- g) **OPERATIONAL PERMIT, WHICH MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE USING A DRINKING WATER SYSTEM;**
- h) **SANITARY CLEARANCE FOR ALL WATER DELIVERY VEHICLES, MOBILE WATER TANKERS AND SIMILAR VEHICLES, INCLUDING ITS APPURTENANCES.**

COVERED ESTABLISHMENTS SHALL ALSO REGISTER PORTABLE WATER TEST KITS AND WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY OR DEVICES WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 11-B. WATER SAFETY PLAN

WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, ALL DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL DEVELOP WATER SAFETY PLANS FOR THEIR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, AND ENSURE ITS IMPLEMENTATION AFTER ITS APPROVAL. AN APPROVED WATER SAFETY PLAN SHALL BE VALID FOR THREE YEARS, UNLESS SUSPENDED OR SOONER REVOKED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP TOOLS, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR WATER SAFETY PLAN PROCESSES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

SECTION 5. Section 12 of Presidential Decree No. 856 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. Examining Laboratories and Submission of Water Samples

The examination of drinking water shall be performed only in private or government laboratories duly accredited by the Department. **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESCRIBE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES WITH RESPECT TO THE CONDUCT, MANNER AND MEASURES REQUIRED FOR THE EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY.**

It is the responsibility of operators of water systems to submit to accredited laboratories water samples for examination in a manner and at such intervals prescribed **UNDER SECTION 11 OF THIS ACT OR** by the Department **THROUGH APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS.**

THE RESULTS OF SUCH MONITORING SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION, AND TO THE CONSUMERS CONCERNED. THE SAME SHALL ALSO

BE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH AN APPLICABLE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL, OR FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE TREATMENT TECHNIQUE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OR FAILS TO PERFORM SUCH MONITORING, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ORDER THE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OR TAKE OTHER STEPS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF DRINKING WATER.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF SUCH OCCURRENCE, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CONCERNED ESTABLISHMENT. THE NOTICE SHALL CONSIST OF, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING;

- a) NATURE OF THE VIOLATION;**
- b) CONTAMINANT LEVEL OF WATER SUPPLY;**
- c) POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS TO THE POPULATION;**
- d) POPULATION AT RISK;**
- e) STEPS BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT VIOLATION;**
- f) TELEPHONE NUMBER OR CONTACT NUMBER OF THE OWNER, OPERATOR OR DESIGNEE OF THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM;**
- g) NECESSITY OF SEEKING ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES; AND**
- h) PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT SHALL BE TAKEN BY CONSUMERS UNTIL THE VIOLATION IS CORRECTED.**

SECTION 6. A new Section 12-A is hereby inserted to read as follows;

SECTION 12-A. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

A DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL FURNISH ITS CUSTOMERS AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE QUALITY OF THE DRINKING WATER IT PROVIDES AND THE CONTAMINANTS, IF ANY, FOUND THEREIN.

THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING;

- a) INFORMATION ON THE SOURCE OF THE WATER DISTRIBUTED;**

- b) ENUMERATION OF PRIMARY PARAMETERS INDICATED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER (PNSDW);
- c) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL INDICATED BY PNSDW;
- d) CURRENT TREATMENT TECHNIQUES UTILIZED BY THE DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER;
- e) MONITORING PROCEDURES UTILIZED BY THE DRINKING WATER SERVICE PROVIDER;
- f) LEVEL OF CONTAMINANT IN THE WATER SYSTEM WITHIN THE YEAR;
- g) ANY CONTAMINANT FOR WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A VIOLATION OF THE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL DURING THE YEAR CONCERNED, AND A BRIEF STATEMENT IN PLAIN LANGUAGE REGARDING THE HEALTH CONCERNS THAT RESULTED IN THE REGULATION OF THE CONTAMINANT, AS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
- h) INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
- i) A STATEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF CONTAMINANTS IN THE DRINKING WATER DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THAT THE DRINKING WATER POSES A HEALTH RISK AND THAT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CONTAMINANTS AND POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE DEPARTMENT;
- j) MEASURES THAT MAY BE ADOPTED BY THE CONSUMERS TO KEEP THEIR WATER SUPPLY FREE FROM CONTAMINATION; AND
- k) SUCH OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS EVERY TWELVE (12) MONTHS THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEDIA. HAND DELIVERY, POSTING, OR OTHER METHODS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 7. Penalties. - A water service provider that fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be liable for a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) for every day of continuing violation, without prejudice to any

other penalties that may be imposed upon it in accordance with other relevant laws, rules and regulation.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Health, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders and relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,