



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



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8833

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER IMPOUNDING
FACILITIES, FOR PURPOSES OF FLOOD CONTROL, POTABLE WATER
SOURCES, AND IRRIGATION, IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY
IN THE COUNTRY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is an agricultural nation heavily reliant on its natural resources for economic growth. Agriculture not only contributes significantly to the nation's GDP but also provides employment and livelihood opportunities for a substantial portion of the population. However, the sector faces challenges, such as irregular rainfall patterns, recurring droughts, and unreliable water supply, hindering its full potential.

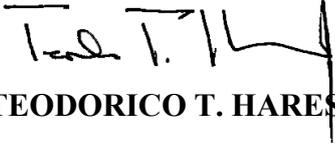
Water security is acknowledged to have fundamental importance especially in the Marcos administration. In June 2023, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. unveiled his administration's plan to build water impounding facilities for flood mitigation and irrigation for agricultural purposes. In his State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Marcos reiterated his commitment to ensuring water security through implementing infrastructure projects concerning this most precious resource.

Establishing water impounding facilities is an essential step towards ensuring sustainable agricultural development, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and promoting rural and urban development throughout the country. Thus, this bill seeks to address these challenges by mandating the construction of water impounding facilities, for purposes of flood control, potable water sources, and irrigation, in every city and municipality across the country.

The establishment of such facilities will lead to a myriad of benefits: supporting the agricultural sector by improving food security and agricultural productivity; promoting climate resilience, flood control, and disaster mitigation; and ensuring sufficient and potable water supply for urban and rural communities.

This proposed legislation is aligned with President Marcos' vision for a resilient, food-secure, and prosperous Philippines. By investing in water infrastructure and harnessing the potential of sustainable water management, the nation will be better equipped to face the challenges of the future and secure a brighter tomorrow for all Filipinos.

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



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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Water Impounding Facilities Act”
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3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
4 the quality of life of every Filipino through the provision of adequate water impounding,
5 potable water, and irrigation facilities made available to every city and municipality in the
6 country, aimed at promoting agricultural productivity, water conservation, flood control,
7 climate resilience, and inclusive economic development.
8

9 **SECTION 3. *Water Impounding Facilities.*** – There shall be established at least one (1) water
10 impounding facility for purposes of flood control, potable water sources, and irrigation, in such
11 available and suitable public space in every city and municipality.
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13 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall, within ninety (90) days after
14 the approval of this Act, undertake construction and development of water impounding, potable
15 water sources and irrigation facilities, and rehabilitation of existing water facilities, in all cities
16 and municipalities in the Philippines in such number as may be needed and feasible, taking into
17 consideration the population, hydrologic conditions, costs of project development and
18 operations, financial and economic factors and institutional arrangements suitable for different
19 areas in the country.
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21 **SECTION 4. *Operation and Maintenance.*** – In order to ensure the proper use of the water
22 facilities herein provided, the local government units concerned shall be primarily responsible
23 for the operation, supervision, and management of water facilities established under this Act.
24 They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and
25 maintenance, in consultation with the DPWH and other concerned government agencies.
26

27 The local sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of
28 the water facilities under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the utilization
29 of the water facilities as needed for local efforts on flood control, water resource development,
30 potable water sources, and irrigation.

31
32 **SECTION 5. *Submission of Report.*** – The DPWH shall, within one hundred eighty (180) days
33 after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter, submit
34 periodic reports to the respective Committees on Public Works and Highways of both Houses
35 of the Congress of the Philippines for evaluation and consideration.

36
37 **SECTION 6. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the
38 construction, rehabilitation, and repair of water impounding facilities for flood control, potable
39 water source, and irrigation shall be charged under the DPWH. Thereafter, funds for this
40 purpose shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall
41 provide for the continued maintenance, operation and management of the facility.

42
43 Additional funding for the construction of such facilities shall come from bilateral and
44 multilateral official development assistance, grants, donations, collections and other forms of
45 assistance from public or private entities, whether domestic or foreign: *Provided,* That the
46 payback period matches public infrastructure investment returns.

47 **SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
48 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DPWH shall, in coordination with the Department
49 of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Irrigation Authority, and other concerned
50 agencies, with the participation of local government units, promulgate the rules and regulations
51 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

52 **SECTION 8. *Non-Impairment Clause.*** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish,
53 impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized,
54 or specific sectors under existing laws.

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56 **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision is held invalid or unconstitutional, the
57 remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

58
59 **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
60 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with
61 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

62
63 **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
64 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

65
66 *Approved,*