

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 816

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Page 1 of 4  
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Introduced by HON. RODEL M. BATOCABE, HON. ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr. and  
HON. CHRISTOPHER S. CO

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

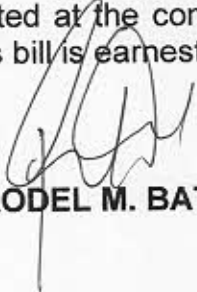
The passage of this bill seeks to address the nationwide problem of sanitation and waste dispersal by unifying and integrating agencies concerned in sanitation, and establishing institutional responsibility and capability for sustainable sanitation.


It responds to the mandate of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instil health consciousness among them. The State is obliged to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. (Sect 15 and 16, Article II: Declaration of Principles and State Policies). Furthermore, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. (Section 11, Article XIII: Social Justice and Human Rights, Health)

UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on states and international organizations to provide financial resources, build capacity and transfer technology, particularly to developing countries, in scaling up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all. The Philippines recognizes the United Nations declaration that sanitation is a fundamental human right and is essential to public health and human development. In addition, it acknowledges the responsibility of the state to declare sustainable sanitation as a national policy and program priority.

Although the Department of Health reports that the population has gained greater access in sanitation, there is still a need to aggressively resolve this sanitation problem. It remains to be a grave concern as clearly observed not only during calamities but also in a day-to-day basis. A significant percent of the population still practice open defecation and negligent waste disposal. Much of said wastes are desludged into bodies of water causing its pollution. A substantial percent of reported diseases and deaths of the Filipino population is attributed to water pollution, sanitation conditions, and hygiene practices.

The bill was filed in the 15th Congress but for lack of time, its progress was halted at the committee level. In light of all these circumstances, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
RODEL M. BATOCABE

  
ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr.

  
CHRISTOPHER S. CO

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Introduced by HON. RODEL M. BATOCABE, HON. ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr. and  
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1 **AN ACT**  
2 **CREATING THE NATIONAL SANITATION COORDINATING COUNCIL THAT SHALL**  
3 **PROVIDE FOR A NATIONWIDE PROGRAM AND MANAGEMENT OF**  
4 **SUSTAINABLE SANITATION AND OTHER PURPOSES**  
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*  
7 *Congress assembled:*  
8

9 **SECTION 1. Title** – This Act shall be known as the “National Sustainable Sanitation Act  
10 of 2016”,  
11

12 **SECTION 2. Statement of Policy** –  
13

- 14 A) The right to health of the people and instil health consciousness among them  
15 shall be protected and promoted;  
16 B) The right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology shall be protected  
17 and advanced;  
18 C) A systematic, comprehensive, ecological and sustainable sanitation management  
19 program shall be developed by national and local government agencies;  
20 D) Public health and environment shall be ensured protection;  
21 E) Greater multi-stakeholder involvement shall be institutionalized in the  
22 development and implementation of national and local sustainable sanitation  
23 programs;  
24 F) It shall be the responsibility of all government departments, bureaus, agencies  
25 and instrumentalities to have documented plans for sustainable sanitation.  
26

27 **SECTION 3. Creation of the National Sanitation Coordinating Council.** There is  
28 hereby created the National Sanitation Coordinating Council to be composed of the  
29 following;

- 30 1) Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as  
31 the Chairman;  
32 2) Secretary, Department of Health, (DOH)  
33 3) Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);  
34 4) Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);  
35 5) Chief, National Housing Agency (NHA);  
36 6) Chairman, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB);  
37 7) Chairman, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC);  
38 8) Administrator, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA); and  
39 9) Executive Director, National Water Resources Board (NWRB);  
40  
41

1 **SECTION 4. Functions of the National Sanitation Coordinating Council.** The  
2 Council shall have the following functions:

- 3  
4 A) Formulate a national plan, framework, and strategies for sustainable sanitation;  
5 B) Coordinate and integrate the activities and functions of the various government  
6 agencies, private institutions, and civic organizations to implement the policies  
7 set by the Council; and  
8 C) Oversee the implementation of national and local sustainable sanitation  
9 management in cooperation with stakeholders, service providers, and other  
10 concerned government units and entities.

11  
12 **Section 5. Organization of the Regional Level.** The organization for coordination of  
13 operations in all local political and administrative subdivisions are prescribed as follows:

- 14 A) The Regional Executive Director of the DENR as Chairman;  
15 B) The Regional Director, Centers for Health Development, as Vice-Chairman and  
16 Action Officer;  
17 C) Regional Director, DPWH;  
18 D) Regional Director, HLURB; and  
19 E) Head, Management Office of the NHA;

20 **Section 6. Organization of the Local Government Level.** The organization for  
21 coordination of operations in all local political and administrative subdivisions are  
22 prescribed as follows:

- 23 F) The Metropolitan Manila Sanitation Councils shall be headed by the Metro Manila  
24 Development Authority (MMDA) Chair. Its members shall be composed of all  
25 Metro Manila Mayors.  
26 G) The Provincial Sanitation Coordinating Councils shall be composed of the  
27 following:  
28 1) The Provincial Governor as Chairman;  
29 2) The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer as the Vice-  
30 Chairman and Action Officer;  
31 3) The Provincial Health Officer;  
32 4) The Provincial Engineer; and  
33 5) The Provincial Planning and Development Officer.  
34 H) The City/Municipal Sanitation Coordinating Councils shall be composed of the  
35 following:  
36 1) The City/Municipal Mayor as Chairman;  
37 2) The Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) shall be the  
38 Vice-Chairman and Action Officer of the Council;  
39 3) The City/Municipal Planning Officer;  
40 4) The City/Municipal Engineer;  
41 5) The City/Municipal Health; and  
42 6) The Water District (LWUA) General Manager.

43  
44 **Section 7. Rules and regulations.** The National Sanitation Coordinating Council, shall  
45 promulgate and issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations for the  
46 implementation of this Act.

47  
48 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
49 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
50 remain valid and subsisting.

51  
52 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
53 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or  
54 inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended  
55 accordingly.

56 6 Approved.

1  
2 SECTION 10. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
3 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

4  
5 *Approved.*