Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 4995  

Introduction by Representative TYRONE D. AGABAS  

AN ACT  
MANDATING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR POTABLE WATER ACCESS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SYSTEMS IN ALL BARANGAYS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES  

EXPLANATORY NOTE  

This bill seeks to require the national government to allocate funds for the construction or establishment of accessible and potable water systems in all barangays in the country.  

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, 1987 Constitution).  

The unavailability of accessible and potable water system to our countrymen especially those living in far-flung areas and communities with no water or low water coverage with high incidence of poverty and water-bone diseases has become a social problem of national importance. Currently, the government has adopted the SaLinTubig (Sagana at Ligtas Na Tubig Para sa Lahat) Program through the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the implementation of programs that will secure potable water access in Local Government Units throughout the country. However, in the absence of a legislative framework that will institutionalize the mandatory establishment of potable water systems in the country, the full extent of the DILG ancillary programs cannot be fully implemented and maximized.
To date, millions of Filipinos have no access to clean potable water. They rely mainly on unsafe and unreliable water source. To ease the burden of being exposed to unsafe water source, some of our countrymen had to endure long walks sometimes crossing rivers and mountains just to have access to clean and potable waters. The need to mandatorily establish an accessible potable water systems in the country has not only become imperative but indispensable.

Hence, this earnest request for the immediate passage of this bill.

TYRONE D. AGABAS
Representative
6th District, Pangasinan
Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

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HOUSE BILL NO. 4995  

Introduced by Representative TYRONE D. AGABAS  

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

SEC. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Potable Water Act of 2019”.  

SECTION 2. Declaration of State Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to provide one of man’s basic right and need-the right to access to potable water. It is also the policy of the State to promote the quality of health of every Filipino through the provision of adequate potable water supply system. To this end, the State shall ensure access of every Filipino to potable water through the funding, and the construction of, water systems across the country-giving priority to the poorest barangays.  

Section 3. Definition of Terms. –  

“LWUA” – shall refer to the Local Utilities Administration  

“DOH” – shall refer to the Department of Health.
“DSWD” – shall refer to the Department of Social Welfare and Development

“NEDA” – shall refer to the National Economic Development Authority

“DPWH” – shall refer to the Department of Public Works and Highway

“LGUs” – shall refer to the Local Government Units which shall then include provinces, cities, municipalities, barangay and autonomous areas in the Philippines.

“NAPC” – shall refer to the National Anti-Poverty Commission

“PSA” – shall refer to the National Statistics Authority

“IRA” – shall refer to the Internal Revenue Allotment of Local Government Units

“Water Systems/Water Facilities” – A water supply system in one or more provincial cities or municipalities.

“Water District” – A water district is a local corporate entity that operates and maintains a water supply system in one or more provincial cities or municipalities.

“Potable Water” – shall refer to drinking water that is safe to drink or use for food preparation.

Section 4. Scope. – This Act shall cover all local government units. The necessary water systems and water facilities shall be established, constructed and implemented on a per-area
or region basis which would be most strategic to cater to all barangays as determined by the DOH, LWUA, DPWH, and such other agencies that have data and studies on the matter.

Any existing water system or facilities project shall be enhance by the national government through the above-mentioned government agencies and GOCCs in compliance with the mandate of this Act.

**Section 5. Allocation from the national government.** – The government, through the DOH, LWUA, DPWH, and such other agencies that have the authority to plot where to implement the objectives of this Act, develop the necessary studies to ascertain key areas that are in need of potable water, and implement the project necessary for the construction of water system/facilities within the territory of the Republic of the Philippines, shall henceforth include in the budget an allocation for such study, construction and completion of such water systems and/or facilities.

In the implementation of this Act, the poorest local government units and barangays shall have the highest priority. The socio-economic status of said local government units shall be determined using data from the appropriate government agencies such as the PSA, NAPC, DSWD and NEDA.

Nothing in this Act shall be constructed to remove, reduce, diminish or otherwise abandon the present responsibility and commitment of local government units to
fund and/or spearhead the construction and completion of their own water systems using their share form the IRA due theme and other sources of revenue.

**Section 6. Appropriation.** – The funds required for the implementation of this Act upon its approval shall be taken form the budget of the LWUA and DPWH for the current fiscal year.

Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the general Appropriation Act of the year immediately following its enactment into law and subsequent thereto. The LWUA, as a government-owned and controlled corporation, shall be required to allocate from its revenue a separate budget to comply with the requirements of this Act.

**Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, LWUA, DPWH, PSA, NAPC, NEDA and such other concerned agencies shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations to carry out the provision of this Act. Such implementing rules and regulations shall be effective fifteen (15) days following their publication in the Official Gazzate or in two (2) major newspapers of general circulation.

**Section 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect
Section 9. – Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulation consistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

Section 10. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,