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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
239
HOUSE RESOLUTION No. _____

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Representatives FERDINAND R. GAITE,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY,
TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN MORONG, BATAAN,
AND ITS IMPACT TO THE PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the Morong Bulk Water Supply Project was initiated by Morong Power and Water Corporation (MWPC) in accordance with the agreement with the Local Government of Morong, Bataan for MWPC to explore water supply from the water sources in Morong to “uplift the living conditions in the municipality as well as to address the Morong and Subic Bay Freeport water needs”;

WHEREAS, the P500-million project aims to provide “safe and reliable bulk water supply” to Morong and Subic Bay Freeport through “private participation”. According to the Morong Bulk Water Supply Project Plan dated May 2014, the water system managed by the Morong Water District (MWD) serves less than 1,000 consumers and is limited to the Poblacion and a few households in Barangay Binaritan. The unserved households rely on their individual water sources. MWD was reported to have limited resources to accommodate additional consumers and develop new water sources. The project will reportedly supply 5 million liters of water to Morong, 5 million liters of water to Subic and 7 million liters of water to irrigation. However, some residents of Morong deny the alleged lack of water;

WHEREAS, the project located in Barangay Sabang and Barangay Morong, Bataan and Subic Bay Freeport covers a total land area of 80,738 hectares in Morong and Subic Bay Freeport. Three (3) barangays will be directly affected by the Project, namely Sabang, Mabayo and Binaritan, based on the Morong Bulk Water Supply Project Plan. The three barangays have a population of 18,183 or 60.8% of the population of Morong in 2015;

1 **WHEREAS**, under the Project, water will be sourced from Batalan River, a tributary of
2 Morong River. The project involves the construction of raw water intake, raw water treatment
3 plant, booster pumping station, storage reservoir and transmission pipelines to Morong and
4 Subic Bay Freeport. The sites of river intake structure and the concrete ground reservoir for
5 Subic Bay Freeport are within the peripheral area of the Bataan National Park, proclaimed
6 through Presidential Decree No. 192 in November 1987;

7 **WHEREAS**, the water treatment facility will be situated in a 4,500-square meter lot in Bataan
8 Technology Park under lease from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).
9 The term of the lease is 50 years, renewable for another 25 years upon mutual agreement of
10 BCDA and MPWC¹. For the operation of the facility, MPWC will pay the BCDA a fixed
11 amount and variable rate of two percent of gross revenues realized from its operations²;

12 **WHEREAS**, the MWPC was granted water permit by National Water Resources Board on
13 March 24, 2014 and was given approval to construct water treatment plant by the Bataan
14 National Park Protected Area Management Board on April 11, 2014;

15 **WHEREAS**, MWPC is reportedly owned by Nicandro Linao, brother of Morong Mayor
16 Cynthia Linao Estanislao. Residents are concerned about the possible “conflict of interest”
17 which prioritizes business and clan interests over and above the Morong people’s welfare and
18 safety;

19 **WHEREAS**, there were reports that farmers and indigenous people in Morong, Bataan are
20 being affected by the project construction. These include the 137 Aeta Magbukon families in
21 Morong. The project has even caused division and disunity among the indigenous people of
22 Morong as their former chieftain signed the project despite the opposition of other elders and
23 leaders;

24 **WHEREAS**, some individuals openly opposing the project report being harassed and
25 threatened. These were documented by the group Tanggol Bayan at Kalikasan ng Morong or
26 TABAK Morong;

27 **WHEREAS**, the previously free-flowing Morong River was reportedly destroyed by the
28 project. TABAK Morong documented some parts of the river filled with gravel and soil in the
29 project areas. This allegedly contributed to the drying up of the river during summer and may
30 cause flooding when rainy season comes;

31 **WHEREAS**, a signature campaign opposing the Morong Bulk Water Project was launched by
32 TABAK Morong. The group calls for the immediate scrapping of the project, and cessation of
33 harassment;

34 **WHEREAS**, there is a need for Congress to investigate the matter especially the reported
35 effects on the farmers and indigenous people and the destruction of the Morong River which
36 may eventually cause irreparable damages to lives and property;

37 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives, through the
38 Committee on Ecology, to investigate, in aid of legislation, the Bulk Water Supply Project in
39 Morong, Bataan and its impact to the people and environment.

¹ <https://www.philstar.com/business/2015/08/28/1493336/bataan-technopark-firm-putting-p500-m-water-treatment-facility>

² <https://business.inquirer.net/198134/morong-to-get-water-treatment-facility>


Adopted,



REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
BAYAN MUNA Partylist




REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Partylist



REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
BAYAN MUNA Partylist



REP. FRANCES L. CASTRO
ACT TEACHERS Party-List



REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
KABATAAN Party-List