

# RAW WATER CHARGES IN THE PHILIPPINES

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2nd NARBO GENERAL MEETING  
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# NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD

A government agency responsible for the management of the water resources of the country.

## PHILIPPINE WATER CODE

- provides the legal basis for raw water charges in the country
- mandates the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to regulate water appropriation through water rights allocation system and to collect and impose reasonable fees and charges for water resources development from water appropriators, except when it is purely single family domestic purpose

# RAW WATER CHARGES

- Charges of raw water in the country are in the form of water appropriation charges being collected annually by NWRB
- It is based on the rate of water withdrawal for use from the natural resources
- The present schedule of rates or charges are very nominal and it is determined based on administrative costs of the NWRB's operations
- Water charges does not reflect the realities of scarcity or abundance of water with minimal attention on the economic value of water.
- It does not even provide economic incentive for efficient use and conservation of water

# FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The revenues collected from annual water charges is very minimal not even enough to cover the operational cost of NWRB. Thus, NWRB relies from:

- National Government Budget
- Official Development Assistance (ODA)

# ISSUES/PROBLEMS

- Insufficient administrative capacities and inadequate procedures of NWRB;
- There is a lack of instruments, which would permit a standardized and environmentally sound regulation of water resources utilization in line with market principles and without excessive administrative efforts;
- Insufficient know how and personnel to develop tariff and revenue collection model, make the necessary amendments to the legislation and implement the tariffs;
- Collected revenues are being remitted to the national treasury and currently, neither specific data on the utilization of revenues nor an explicit policy regarding their utilization exist.

# CURRENT INITIATIVES

- NWRB will conduct a study on raw water pricing” under the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).
- NWRB has initiated activities to improve its revenue collection
  - The management has made formal representations with the various heads of debtor-agencies,
  - discussed with the Department of Budget and Management the possibility of increasing funding for manpower requirement,
  - possibly establishing regional offices in key areas, as part of the remedial actions of the agency on the said collection problem.

THANK YOU

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