

LWUA's Pichay to create water bank

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will be born out of it," Pichay added.

The former three-term congressman from Surigao del Sur also shared that he intends to make the country's water system the greenest water system in the world.

"Under PD 198, watershed areas should be entrusted to us for us to protect and reforest, and that's exactly what we intend to do. We will also be helping to save water districts from high interest rates when getting loans from various credit facilities," he added.

Aside from the establishment of Water Bank, Pichay also plans to reduce red tape at LWUA and discourage water rate increases in his five-year term as LWUA administrator.

"I expect to be able to serve round 30 to 40 million Filipinos when I complete my five-year stint with the LWUA in 2013," Pichay shared.

Pichay, also disclosed that the country needs an estimated P450 billion to fully develop its water resources and supply systems to include provision for filtration and treatment. He said that the establishment of the bank would help augment

the government's annual budgetary appropriations for water supply.

LWUA is currently serving 612 water districts in the country but still 755 municipalities have no water systems.

Pichay said the plan is to establish 50 additional water districts until 2010.

The LWUA is responsible for the government's potable

water projects nationwide and extends credit and financial assistance for various projects in water districts, which include engineering studies and design improvement.

LWUA was previously under the Department of Public Works and Highways, but President Gloria Arroyo transferred it to the Department of Health last August 2008. ■



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