

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 32, August 26, 2020]

EXPIDITING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS OF INFRASTRUCTURE FLAGSHIP PROJECTS ON WATER SECURITY

WHEREAS, the State recognizes that investments in adequate infrastructure are necessary to fulfill the commitment of the Philippines under the Sustainable Development Goals of ensuring universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030;

WHEREAS, acceleration of infrastructure development in water resources is one of the key pillars under the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act (RA) No. 9485 as amended by RA No. 11032 or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, " declares it a policy of the State to promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property, as well as to establish effective practices aimed at the efficient turn around of the delivery of government services and the prevention of graft and corruption in government;

WHEREAS, under Sections 5 and 17 (f) of RA No. 9485, as amended, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) shall review existing laws, executive issuances and local ordinances, and recommend the repeal of the same if deemed outdated, redundant, and adds undue regulatory burden to the transacting public, as well as recommend policies, processes and systems to improve regulatory management to increase the productivity, efficiency and effectiveness of business permitting and licensing agencies;

WHEREAS, persistent low water levels in existing reservoirs especially those servicing Metro Manila, along with increasing demand and competing use over limited water supply call for the development of new water resources, and acceleration of water infrastructure development as an overarching strategy in pursuit of water security and as an important approach in dealing with the challenges of climate change through innovative interventions and technologies;

WHEREAS, agency processes and procedures have routinely and excessively delayed infrastructure flagship projects on water resulting in increased costs and hampering the delivery of clean, stable, adequate and affordable water to the detriment of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the National Government to pursue institutional reforms such as streamlining processes of concerned agencies to encourage and guide investments in water supply, sewerage and sanitation, and expedite the approval and processing of infrastructure flagship projects on water security, while respecting property rights and protecting public safety and the environment; and