

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

H.B. No. 3787

Introduced by Representative Carlos O. Cojuangco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) under the Department of Agriculture is the office primarily in charge of implementing policies, programs and projects involving irrigation.

The primary focus of NIA is to irrigate lands producing the most basic agricultural commodity, rice and corn. This is the primary reason why rice and corn farmers were given a right of representation in its Board of Directors.

As our farmers' production has evolved into a variety of commodities, it is high time that representation in the NIA Board should be granted to those whose livelihood are very much dependent on it. These are the small farmers who lack the resources to irrigate the small landholdings on their own.

This bill mandates the right of representation of small farmers in the NIA Board. It provides for the inclusion of three (3) directors from small farmers representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

It is in this view that the early passage of this measure is sought.

Carlos O. Cojuangco

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THREE (3) SMALL FARMERS' REPRESENTATIVES IN
THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA) BOARD BY
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED AND
ONE, AS AMENDED,
"AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION",
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 3691, as amended is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Board of Directors - The powers and functions of the National Irrigation Administration shall be exercised by a Board of Directors composed of [six] EIGHT members, to wit: the Secretary of Agriculture who shall be the Chairman, the Administrator of the National Irrigation Administration, who shall be the Vice-Chairman, the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, the General Manager of the National Power Corporation, and [one member] THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE SMALL FARMERS OF LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO, RESPECTIVELY, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines on recommendation of any national [rice and corn] SMALL FARMERS' organization of good standing and who shall serve for a term of four years unless sooner removed.”

SEC. 2. All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this law are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) leading newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,