

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 3918

Introduced by: HON. LORETO LEO S. OCAMPOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Irrigation has been a considerable instrument for increasing rice productivity in the Philippines. Irrigation projects are often needed to improve agricultural productivity and increase crop yields and cropping intensities by supplying sufficient amount of water to lands that would not usually receive enough water from rainfall, other natural sources or during dry spells.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) primarily responsible for irrigation development in the Philippines. NIA aims to deliver the right amount of water at the right time to every farm at least twice a year. Farmers pay irrigation service fee for NIA's services in the delivery of water to the farms.

Small-scale rice farmers face hardships as each typhoon rages through their farms. The heavy rains unleashed by back-to-back-typhoons has damaged crops or affected their quality. Lost revenues have made farmers unable to pay for irrigation fees due to the National Irrigation Administration.

In an effort to promote rice farming in the Philippines and to ensure constant food supply, this bills seeks to lessen the financial burden of small-scale rice farmers by condoning their amortization arrears to NIA.



LORETO LEO S. OCAMPOS

Representative

2nd District, Misamis Occidental

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AN ACT CONDONING THE AMORTIZATION ARREARS OF DEBT-RIDDEN FARMERS IN SUBSIDIZED IRRIGATED LANDS TO THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. This Act shall be known as an Act Condoning the Amortization Arrears of Debt-ridden Rice Farmers in Subsidized Irrigated Lands to the National Irrigation Administration.

Section 2. It shall be the policy of the State to promote the welfare of the small-scale farmers. They shall receive the highest consideration to promote social justice and the establishment of owner-cultivatorship of economic-sized farms as the basis of Philippine agriculture.

Section 3. Coverage. Small-scale rice farmers and those rice farmers with annual income below the rural poverty threshold in subsidized irrigated lands as determined by periodic census and by the Department of Agriculture.

Section 4. Condonation. All outstanding irrigation fees, administration charges and penalties incurred by Small-scale rice farmers and those rice farmers with annual income below the rural poverty threshold to the National Irrigation Administration are hereby condoned.

Section 5. Prohibition. A farmer must not have availed of any previous condonation program from any government institution or agency involved in the National Irrigation Administration.

Section 6. Implementing Agency. The National Irrigation Administration shall be the implementing agency for this Act. The above agency shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. –This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,