

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

4665
HOUSE BILL NO. ____



Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero and Enrico A. Pineda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) primarily responsible for irrigation development in the Philippines.

This House Bill seeks to undertake a program for the construction of irrigation projects in the remaining one million five hundred thousand (1,500,000) hectares of unirrigated but irrigable lands, whether in the lowlands or in the uplands, including other related project components nationwide.

This House Bill shall give priority to areas with social and economic problems, taking into consideration population, area served, project cost and other economic and environmental factors as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of the national development plans.

The National Irrigation Administration, in consultation with the provincial and municipal development councils, shall determine the areas which shall be given priority.

Earnest approval of this bill is hereby requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D


ENRICO A. PINEDA

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AN ACT

**INCREASING THE CAPITALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION
ADMINISTRATION (NIA), TO PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT BY
PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM, AND THE
CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress
Assembled:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy - The State shall hereby provide an additional Five billion pesos (**P5,000,000,000.00**) to promote the quality of living of every Filipino through the provision of adequate social services including, but not limited to, the provision of adequate irrigation projects facilities to increase agricultural production.. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby authorized to provide its appropriations, in the current year of the date of the effectivity of this Act to conform with its mandate and requirements.

The National Irrigation Administration shall observe the following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and management of irrigation projects:

(a) Funds provided for in this Act shall be used only for the construction of new irrigation projects;

(b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal irrigation projects. At least fifty percent (50%) of the funds shall be used for communal irrigation projects;

(c) Priority shall be given to the following:

(1) Beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program;

(2) Members of the indigenous cultural communities;

(3) Beneficiaries in areas where there are farmer-irrigators associations; and

(4) Beneficiaries in fifth and sixth class municipalities;

(d) The irrigation projects must be equitably distributed among the provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities without any irrigation system;

(e) The farmer-beneficiaries of communal irrigation projects shall participate in all stages of the project. The beneficiaries shall participate in the project planning, identification, design, management of the project funds, construction and monitoring;

(f) The beneficiaries of communal irrigation projects shall pay fifty percent (50%) of the project cost without interest for a period of fifty (50) years: provided, that, in case the beneficiary dies, his legal heirs or whoever may own the land benefited by the project at any given time during the term of payment shall shoulder the remaining obligation of the land; and

(g) The communal irrigation system shall be managed and maintained by the irrigators association or cooperative. The National Irrigation Administration shall help organize the irrigators association or cooperative

and shall assist in the conduct of orientation seminars and training to the members of the said association or cooperative.

SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations – the amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from any available appropriations of the National Irrigation Administration under the current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, the succeeding appropriations for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act until the program shall have been completed.

In addition, the portion of financial grants and concessional loans extended to the Philippines by foreign governments and multilateral agencies including, but not limited to the Philippine Aid Plan, the amount to be determined by the President, shall be allocated by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and augment the appropriations of the National Irrigation Administration until the program is completed as mandated in this Act.

SECTION 3. Funding – the amount of Five billion pesos (**₱5,000,000,000.00**) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year following its enactment into law.

SECTION 4. Periodic Reports - The NIA shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and Senate and the appropriate department, and in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act, an additional amount of Five billion pesos (**₱5,000,000,000.00**) is hereby appropriated.

SECTION 5. Automatic Review - Every three **(3) years** after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the President shall review the policies and programs in the NIA and shall

make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,