

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session**

House Bill No. 7476



Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 552, it is the policy of the State to ensure a comprehensive development, utilization and conservation of Philippines' water resources. This in turn will promote food self-sufficiency, equitable access to opportunities and sustained productivity as key strategies to raise the quality of life in rural areas and attain overall national development. In realizing this policy, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), a government-owned and controlled corporation primarily responsible for irrigation development and management, was created.

It is the NIA's vision that by 2022, the agency will be contributing to the inclusive growth of the country and in the improvement of the farmers' quality of life. However, presently, there is still a remaining 1,500,000 hectares of irrigable lands that are yet to be irrigated nationwide. Particularly, in the Province of Dinagat Islands, towns and agricultural lands are experiencing water crisis due to undeveloped and untapped water sources. As a socially and geographically challenged province, seeking irrigation assistance outside the area is difficult, if not impossible considering the plight brought about by the current pandemic. This is disadvantageous for an agricultural province like Dinagat Islands especially that it seeks to be a self-sufficient in terms of rice and other crops by increasing its agricultural production and lessening its importation.

Hence, the establishment of a provincial National Irrigation Administration in the Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands is hereby sought in order to assist the province in planning, constructing, operating and maintaining irrigation systems consistent with integrated water resource management principles, with the end view of improving agricultural productivity and increasing farmers' income.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is fervently called for.

ALAN 1 B. ECLEO

Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL
IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASILISA,
PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of Provincial Office of National Irrigation Administration in the Dinagat Islands.* – There shall be established and maintained, under the direct supervision of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), a Provincial Office of the NIA in the Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands, to be known as the NIA Dinagat Islands Provincial Office which shall undertake integrated irrigation projects to effectuate an economic means of achieving the optimal and diversified utilization and control of water.

SEC. 2. *Appropriations.* – The NIA Board of Directors shall include in the administration's program the operationalization of the NIA Dinagat Islands Provincial Office, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the National Irrigation Administration, and thereafter, the succeeding funding shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the NIA Board of Directors shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation

Approved,