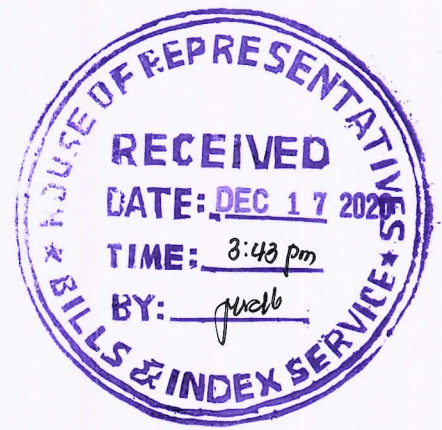


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8281



INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE ROGELIO D. PACQUIAO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create dedicated Irrigation Management Offices (IMO) of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) for the Province of Sarangani and the City of General Santos, in order to optimize the management of water resources and promote equitable and sustainable irrigation management systems within their respective areas of jurisdiction, for the ultimate benefit of our farmers.

Irrigation systems are necessary components of water management strategy to support human activities and agricultural production. They are also instrumental in fighting rural poverty, as they protect poor farmers who are considered to be the most vulnerable to the impacts of water scarcity brought by modern factors, such as rapidly increasing population density, pollution, and climate change.

At present, General Santos City (an independent city in South Cotabato) and Sarangani are both under the Sarangani-General Santos City (SarGen) Sub-Office of NIA Region XII. Consequently, these two distinct jurisdictions currently share in personnel and resources. It causes an unavoidable division in priorities, especially given the rapid socioeconomic developments in both areas. Productivity of the farmers within these localities is constrained due to this inefficient setup. According to the International Water Management Institute, low productivity in rural areas is often associated with poor performance systems of irrigation systems caused by situational and managerial factors. It is under such circumstances that this measure is being proposed.

This bill aims to provide the farmers of Sarangani and General Santos City a reliable and accessible irrigation system in their respective places, which would lead to desirable changes such as enhanced crop yield, reduced losses, and more stabilized income for the farmers in the long run. It seeks to ensure that water is distributed appropriately and equitably to the farmers in both areas, and that their specific needs are adequately met by the government.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROGELIO D. PACQUIAO

Republic of the Philippines
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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8281

INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE ROGELIO D. PACQUIAO

**“AN ACT CREATING SEPARATE IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICES OF
THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PROVINCE OF
SARANGANI AND THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

Section 1. *Establishment of separate Irrigation Management Offices (IMOs) of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) for the Province of Sarangani and the City of General Santos.* – There shall be established and maintained, under the direct supervision of the Region XII Irrigation Office of the NIA, separate IMOs for the Province of Sarangani and the City of General Santos. The existing Sarangani-General Santos City (SarGen) Sub-Office of RIO-XII of the NIA is hereby abolished, with the two newly-created IMOs undertaking the development of projects regarding irrigation systems within their respective areas of territorial jurisdiction.

Section 2. *Functions of IMOs.* – The newly-created IMOs shall have the same functions as the other IMOs of NIA. They shall ensure efficient operation and management of irrigation systems to bring substantial benefits in terms of greater water availability and better distribution, and to augment the productivity and income of farmers within their respective jurisdictions. It shall also provide technical guidance and supervision to the farmers, as needed.

Section 3. *Appropriations.* – The NIA Board of Directors shall include in their program the operationalization of the Sarangani IMO and the General Santos City IMO, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the NIA. Thereafter, the succeeding funding shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NIA Board of Directors shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

Section 5. *Separability Clause.* – Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provision which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in effect.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations, contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,