



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **938**



Introduced by Representative SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an Irrigation Management Office (IMO) of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in General Santos City.

Irrigation systems are essential for farmers, supporting the planting, cultivation, and protection of crops against drought, pests, pollution, and the impacts of climate change. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), created under Republic Act No. 3601, oversees the construction, improvement, and management of irrigation systems nationwide through its Irrigation Management Offices (IMOs).

At present, farmers in General Santos City must travel approximately 67 kilometers to the NIA office in Koronadal City to access irrigation-related services. This distance results in significant time, cost, and inconvenience, compounded by traffic and weather conditions.

Establishing an IMO in General Santos City will bring NIA services closer to local farmers, reducing travel burdens and enabling more efficient delivery of irrigation support. This will help boost agricultural productivity, increase farmers' incomes, and spur economic growth in General Santos and nearby areas in South Cotabato.


SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF
THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL
SANTOS CITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established an irrigation management office of the National Irrigation Administration in General Santos City. The irrigation management office shall be responsible for the construction, improvement, and rehabilitation of irrigation projects, and implement the operation and maintenance plans of irrigation systems in collaboration with the farmer-beneficiaries. The irrigation management office shall also provide frontline services of the National Irrigation Administration in the conduct of its business and in the exercise of its powers and functions as provided under Republic Act No. 3601, as amended, entitled “*An Act Granting the National Irrigation Administration*”, and such additional powers and functions as hereafter be provided by law.

SECTION 2. The chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Irrigation Administration shall appoint the necessary officers and employees to operate the irrigation management office in the City of General Santos, subject to civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 3. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Irrigation Administration shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. The amount necessary for the Initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current Appropriations of the National Irrigation Administration. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,