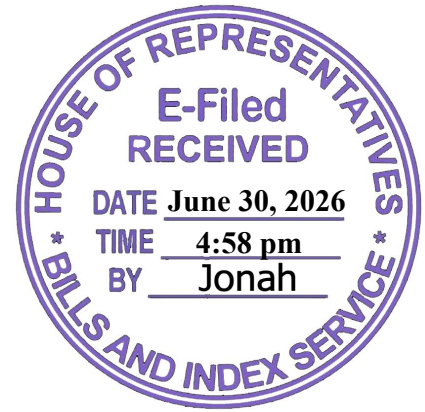


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9987



Introduced by Representative Jan "Atty. JP" D. Padiernos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains one of the most water-dependent sectors of the Philippine economy. However, recurring droughts, prolonged dry seasons, and the increasing impacts of climate change continue to threaten agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of millions of Filipino farmers.

While irrigation infrastructure has expanded over the years, challenges in the allocation and management of available water remain. During periods of water shortage, farmers located at the tail-end portions of irrigation systems often receive insufficient water, resulting in reduced crop yields, lower incomes, and increased vulnerability to food insecurity. These inefficiencies become more pronounced during El Niño events and other climate-related disruptions, when available water resources must be managed more carefully and equitably.

Advances in monitoring and information technology now provide practical tools that can improve irrigation management. Real-time monitoring of water availability and distribution can help irrigation authorities make more informed decisions, minimize wastage, and ensure a fairer allocation of water resources among farmers. By modernizing irrigation management and adopting data-driven water allocation systems, the government can improve agricultural resilience while maximizing the benefits of existing irrigation infrastructure.

This bill seeks to establish a National Smart Irrigation Water Sharing Program that promotes the efficient, equitable, and climate-resilient allocation of irrigation water. It aims to ensure that all farmers, including those located at the tail-end portions of irrigation systems, receive fair access to irrigation water, particularly during periods of drought and water scarcity.

In strengthening irrigation management and promoting the efficient use of water resources, this measure contributes to the broader goals of food security, agricultural productivity, and climate resilience.

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


Rep. Jan "Atty. JP" D. Padiernos
GP (GALING SA PUSO) Partylist

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9987

Introduced by Representative Jan “Atty. JP” D. Padiernos

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SMART IRRIGATION WATER SHARING PROGRAM TO PROMOTE EQUITABLE, EFFICIENT, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT ALLOCATION OF IRRIGATION WATER, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "National Smart Irrigation Water Sharing Act."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*– It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of farmers to agricultural productivity and food security, enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change, and ensure the sustainable and efficient use of the country's water resources. Towards this end, the State shall promote the modernization of irrigation management through the adoption of appropriate technologies and equitable water allocation systems to ensure that all farmers, including those located at the tail-end portions of irrigation systems, receive fair and reasonable access to irrigation water, particularly during periods of drought, water scarcity, and other climate-related disruptions.

Section 3. *National Smart Irrigation Water Sharing Program.* – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and concerned local government units, shall establish and implement a National Smart Irrigation Water Sharing Program aimed at improving the management and allocation of irrigation water through the use of appropriate monitoring, measurement, and information technologies.

The Program shall prioritize irrigation systems located in drought-prone and water-stressed agricultural areas.

Section 4. *Components of the Program.*– The Program shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(a) Installation and utilization of water flow monitoring and measurement devices in irrigation systems, where feasible;

(b) Development of digital monitoring and reporting systems to track water distribution and availability;

(c) Establishment of equitable water allocation protocols during periods of water shortage;

(d) Adoption of drought-response and water conservation measures to maximize available irrigation resources;

(e) Capacity-building and training programs for irrigators' associations and farmers on efficient water management practices; and

(f) Such other measures as may be necessary to promote fair and efficient irrigation water distribution.

Section 5. *Priority Protection for Tail-End Farmers.* – In formulating water allocation plans during periods of water scarcity, the NIA and concerned irrigators' associations shall adopt measures to ensure that farmers located at the tail-end portions of irrigation systems are not unreasonably deprived of irrigation water and are afforded equitable access consistent with available water resources and operational requirements.

Section 6. *Pilot Implementation and Expansion.* – The NIA shall initially implement the Program in selected irrigation systems identified as vulnerable to recurring droughts and water shortages. Subject to available funds and program evaluation, the coverage of the Program may thereafter be expanded to other irrigation systems nationwide.

Section 7. *Annual Reporting.* – The NIA shall submit to Congress and the Department of Agriculture an annual report on the implementation of this Act, including information on water distribution efficiency, participating irrigation systems, challenges encountered, and recommendations for further improvements.

Section 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the National Irrigation Administration. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Irrigation Administration, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions which are not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,