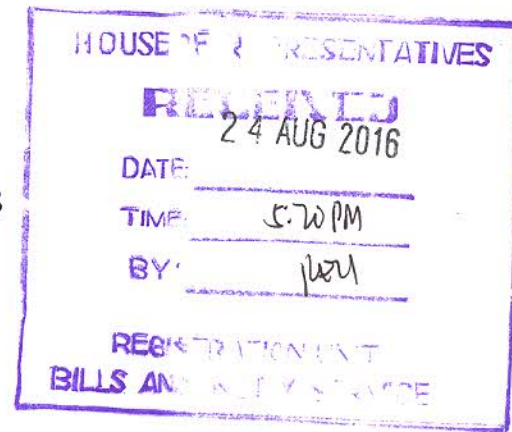


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 3302



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE NOEL L. VILLANNUEVA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Secretary Emmanuel Piñol of the Department of Agriculture (DA), in press statements and radio interviews, has been battling for the abolition of the collection of service fees being collected by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in order to help alleviate the standard of living of the poor farmers. However, this cannot be done without repealing the existing law on the matter.

This bill therefore seeks to abolish the collection of irrigation service fees and administrative charges by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) from farmers and to condone all unpaid debts incurred by the farmers pursuant to Section 2 (c) of Republic Act No. 3601 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552.

It is worthy to note that the collection of irrigation service fees and administration charges from beneficiaries of water from all irrigation system was primarily intended to recover the costs of construction of irrigation systems. However, due to the common problems brought about by low production and aggravated by other problems like the rising cost of fertilizers and farm laborers, the collection of irrigation service fees and administration charges had become an additional burden to our poor farmers resulting in their failure to settle their financial obligations with the NIA.

With the abolition of irrigation service fees and condonation of debts incurred in the past as proposed in the bill, many farmers, particularly in Central Luzon will be encouraged to plant rice as they will be given more opportunity to earn without thinking of financial obligations that effectively reduced their incomes. This situation will effectively help the government in its effort to attain rice self-sufficiency.

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

NOEL L. VILLANUEVA

Representative
Third District, Tarlac

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 3302

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE NOEL L. VILLANNUEVA**

AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE COLLECTION OF IRRIGATION FEES AND OTHER
ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES AND GRANTING CONDONATION OF
UNPAID DEBTS, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2 (b) OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.
552

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 (b) of Republic Act No. 3601, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552, is hereby repealed.

All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 2. All debts incurred from failure to pay irrigation service fees and administrative charges pursuant to Section 2 (b) of Republic Act No. 3601, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552, are hereby written-off.

SEC. 2. This Act shall effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,