

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3505

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by **Representative MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES IMPOSED ON FARMERS,
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL
IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA)

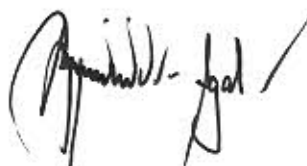
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The vital role of farmers in the Philippine economy is noteworthy. As we remain and continue to acknowledge that the Philippines remain dependent to our farmers for the food on our table and to our agricultural economy, we should alleviate the plight of farmers by encouraging them to carry on despite their situation. What we can offer to relieve them of their burden is to abolish the irrigation fees that are being charged on farmers. Little as it may be, but the charge is still an onus that farmers have to pay.

With the vast and fertile agricultural lands that the Philippines have, it may be assumed that the agriculture sector is on steady growth. But with the challenges that farmers confront every season, including the issue on proper irrigation and the loss of crops due to weather conditions, farmers are slowly diminishing nowadays. We have low productivity that hardly sustain our supply chain.

The government, on its part is cognizant of these situations. Programs have been continuously introduced in the agricultural sector to assist our farmers. But on top of these assistance, it is humbly proposed that the additional burden of irrigation fees be abolished to improve their productivity.

Foregoing considered, passage of the bill is hereby earnestly requested.



[The NIA shall have the following powers and objective: (b) To charge and collect from the beneficiaries of the water from all irrigation systems constructed by or under its administration, such fees or administrative charges as may be necessary to cover the costs of operation.

1 maintenance, and to recover the cost of construction within a reasonable
2 period of time to the extent consistent with government policy.]

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4 c. PD 1702. Section 1, paragraph b.

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6 [(b) Operating capital – All amounts collected by the National Irrigation
7 Administration as irrigation fees, administration charges, drainage fees,
8 equipment rentals, proceeds from the sale of unserviceable equipment
9 and materials, sale of all reparation goods allocated to the defunct
10 irrigation service unit and the National Irrigation Administration, all other
11 income shall be added to its operating capital.]

12
13 **SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act or the application
14 such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of the
15 Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be
16 affected by such declaration.

17
18 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
19 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to
20 or inconsistent with this Act, or may be construed, either expressly or impliedly, to grant
21 the National Irrigation Administration the power to levy any kind of irrigation fee or other
22 kind of monetary imposition, is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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24 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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27 *Approved,*