

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

**3338**  
House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Introduced by Representatives**  
**Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This measure seeks to abolish the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and transfer its functions to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), was created by virtue of Republic Act 3601, as amended, to expand irrigated farmlands in order to better program the production of agricultural crops, increase the productivity of our farmers and ensure a stable supply of farm commodities.

NIA has been attached under the Office of the President (OP)<sup>1</sup>, Department of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication<sup>2</sup>, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)<sup>3</sup>, Department of Agriculture (DA)<sup>4</sup> and back to the OP<sup>5</sup>, since its creation in 1963.

NIA has been around for more than five decades, being instrumental in helping our farmers and the agriculture sector grow. However, there is still a lot more needed to be done to reach the government's goal of attaining food security.

The DPWH, on another hand, is the State's engineering and construction arm, to carry out the planning, design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities, especially national highways, flood control and water resource development systems, and other public works in accordance with the national development objectives.

According to Section 42, The Administrative Code of the Philippines, *"Government-owned or controlled corporations shall be attached to the appropriate department with which they have allied functions, as herein provided, or as may be provided by executive order, for policy and program coordination and for general supervision provided in pertinent provisions of this Code."* NIA deals with infrastructure projects and works closely with the DPWH in undertaking these

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<sup>1</sup>Republic Act No. 3601, 22 June 1963

<sup>2</sup>PD No. 1, 23 September 1972

<sup>3</sup>The Administrative Code of 1987, 25 July 1987

<sup>4</sup>Administrative Order No. 17, 14 October 1992

<sup>5</sup>Executive Order No. 165, 05 May 2014

projects, more so than with any other agency, hence, will be more effective in delivering their services.

There is an urgent need to simplify and fine tune the functions government agencies and promote efficiency in the delivery of services. The abolition of the NIA and the transfer of its functions to DPWH will eliminate redundant and duplicating functions of government agencies especially in the Irrigation and Infrastructure Sectors and ultimately accelerate economic growth and development.

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

  
**ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija

  
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**AN ACT**

**ABOLISHING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA),  
TRANSFERRING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH), PROVIDING GRATUITY BENEFITS  
FOR ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1       **SEC 1. Abolition of the National Irrigation Administration.** – The National  
2 Irrigation Administration is hereby abolished within one (1) year from the approval  
3 of this Act.

4       **SEC 2. Transfer of NIA to the Department of Public Works and Highways.**  
5 – The supervision and control including the applicable funds and appropriations,  
6 records, equipment and property of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) are  
7 hereby transferred to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

8       All agreements and contracts entered into by the NIA shall remain in full force  
9 and effect unless otherwise terminated, modified or amended by DPWH.

10       **SEC. 3. Powers and Functions.** – The Department of Public Works and  
11 Highways (DPWH) shall exercise the full powers and functions of the National  
12 Irrigation Administration under existing laws.

13       **SEC. 4. Gratuity Pay of Officers and Employees.** – The officers and  
14 employees of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) whose positions are  
15 abolished or who may be separated from the service as a consequence of the abolition  
16 authorized under this Act shall be granted gratuity pay equivalent to three (3)  
17 months' salary for every year of continuous satisfactory service with NIA on the basis  
18 of highest salary received. Provided, that the officers and employees shall be eligible  
19 for reappointment and shall be prioritized in the hiring in appropriate vacancies in  
20 government based on their qualifications, training and civil service eligibilities.

21       **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Governance  
22 Commission for Government Owned or Controlled Corporations (GCG) in close

1 coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the  
2 Department of Agriculture (DA) shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and  
3 Regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after  
4 the approval of this Act.

5 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the payment of gratuity  
6 benefits to officers and employees of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) who  
7 may be separated from the service as result of the abolition authorized under this  
8 Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

9 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations  
10 which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
11 accordingly.

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

14 Approved,