

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

04 JUN 30 P3:06

SENATE

S. No. 243

RECEIVED BY: AB

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 16 of the Constitution mandates that "the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged." Of all the vital sectors of society, the gains envisioned by this policy can nowhere be best fully realized but in the agricultural sector. Enhancing peoples participation, specially our farmers, in decision-making may yet prove to be the catalyst for the long-sought goal of agricultural development.


Our government's effort towards the realization of this national policy has not been wanting. In fact, the empowerment of small farmers is enunciated in Republic Act No. 7607 (The Magna Carta of Small Farmers). Under the said law, the farmers' representative chosen by their national organizations shall sit in the governing boards of government agencies.

One government agency where the participation of small farmers needs to be guaranteed is the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). Considering that irrigation services have a vital and direct impact on agricultural production, their efficient management and delivery is the foremost concern of small farmers. Thus, the said sector should be given adequate participation in the policy-making of the NIA, which is the government agency responsible for irrigation services.

The provision of R.A. 7607 allows small farmers to participate in the NIA Board. However, experience has shown that the limited number of farmers' representative, rather than facilitating their empowerment, has hampered their effective participation.


To ensure participation of a greater number of farmers in policy-making, this bill seeks to amend the charter of the National Irrigation Administration, provided under Republic Act No. 3601, as amended. Representation of farmers in the governing board of said agency is sought to be institutionalized by increasing the composition of the Board from six to eight, by adding two small farmers' representatives so that Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao may be adequately represented.

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


SERGIO R. OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THREE SMALL FARMERS' REPRESENTATIVES IN THE
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA) BOARD BY AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED AND ONE, AS
AMENDED, "AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION
ADMINISTRATION", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 3691, as amended is hereby
2 further amended to read as follows:

3 "Sec. 4. Board of Directors. - The Powers and functions of the
4 National Irrigation Administration shall be exercised by a Board of
5 Directors composed of [six] EIGHT members, to wit: The Secretary of
6 Agriculture who shall be the Chairman, the Administrator of National
7 Irrigation Administration, who shall be the Vice-Chairman, the Director
8 General of the National Economic and Development Authority, the
9 Secretary of Public Works and Highways, the General Manager of the
10 National Power Corporation, and [one member] THREE MEMBERS
11 REPRESENTING THE SMALL FARMERS OF LUZON, VISAYAS AND
12 MINDANAO, RESPECTIVELY, who shall be appointed by the President of

1 the Philippines on recommendation of any national [rice and corn] SMALL
2 FARMERS organization of good standing and who shall serve for a term
3 of four years unless sooner removed."

4 SEC. 2. All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, other issuance or
5 parts thereof which are inconsistent with this law are hereby repealed or modified
6 accordingly.

7 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
8 two (2) leading newspapers of general circulation

9 Approved,