


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY: 7 JUL 20

SENATE
S. B. No. 1367

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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.

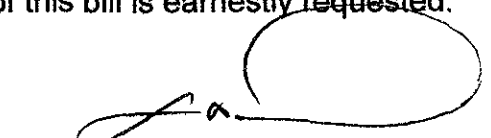
Our government's effort towards the realization of this national policy has not been wanting. In fact, the empowerment of small farmers is enunciated in Republic Act No. 7607 (The Magna Carta of Small Farmers). Under the said law, the farmers' representative chosen by their national organizations shall 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 the Visayas and Mindanao regions may be adequately represented.

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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator


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SECRETARY

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL SEATS FOR SMALL FARMERS' REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA) BOARD BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED AND ONE, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

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

"Sec. 4. Board of Directors. - The Powers and functions of the National Irrigation Administration shall be exercised by a Board of Directors composed of [six] **EIGHT** members, to wit: The Secretary of Agriculture who shall be the Chairman, the Administrator of National Irrigation Administration, who shall be the Vice-chairman, the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, the General Manager of the National Power Corporation, and [one member] **THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE SMALL FARMERS OF LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO, RESPECTIVELY**, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines on recommendation of any national [rice and corn] **SMALL FARMERS** organization of good standing and who shall serve for a term of four years unless sooner removed."

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

SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,