

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

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SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 1453

Introduced by Senate President JUAN PONCE ENRILE

A RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD AND FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE FEASIBILITY OF NOT REQUIRING FARMERS
TO PAY IRRIGATION FEES TO THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION
ADMINISTRATION (NIA), AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF
CONDONING PAST-DUE IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES, WITH THE END
IN VIEW OF PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS**

WHEREAS, irrigation is among the most vital services needed by our country's farmers to bring about increased productivity;

WHEREAS, as a means of support to the irrigation needs of the farmers, the government, through Republic Act No. 3601, created the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), an agency tasked to investigate, study, improve, construct and administer all international irrigation systems in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the NIA was tasked to investigate all available and possible water resources in the country for the purpose of utilizing the same for irrigation, and to plan, design and construct the necessary projects for the same purpose;

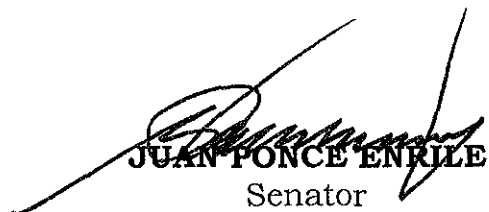
WHEREAS, the NIA was also given the power to collect from the users of each irrigation system constructed by it "such fees as may be necessary to finance the continuous operation of the system and reimburse within a certain period not less than twenty-five years the cost of construction thereof;"

WHEREAS, with the high production cost of rice, there is a clamor for help from the government among the low income farmers, with the farmers seeking, among other support services, the waiver of payment of irrigation fees and the condonation of past due irrigation fees payable to the NIA;

WHEREAS, the legislative department, as part of the three branches of government, must find remedial measures to help those who are more in need in the agricultural sector;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, that the Committees on Agriculture and Food and Finance are directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the feasibility of not requiring farmers to pay irrigation fees to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), as well as the possibility of condoning past-due irrigation service fees, with the end in view of providing much-needed assistance to farmers and agricultural workers.

Adopted,



JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senator