



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

13 SEP 16 P3:09

SENATE

RECEIVED

Senate Bill No. 1661

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) which was created under R.A. 3601, is tasked with the development policy, operation and maintenance of the irrigation systems all over the country. Likewise, it is mandated to provide corollary services in line with the agricultural development program of the national government such as construction of more infrastructures, and employment of modern technology and other support services.

The creation of NIA in the government's efforts to attain self-sufficiency in agricultural crops, which has become one of our nation's major economic goals.

The country's concern for the development of irrigation system expressed in the enactment of R.A. 3601 up to this date, particularly because of the risks brought about by the depletion of water resources due to prevalent environmental degradation such as indiscriminate deforestation, quarrying with restricted zones and uncontrolled siltation, as well as such factors as rapid urbanization and burgeoning population.

Its Board of Directors exercises the powers and functions of NIA. Under P.D. No. 552, which amended R.A. 3601, the Board is composed of six members and Farmers are only represented by the rice and corn organization in the Board of Directors. This proposed measure then provides the inclusion of a representative from the private sector particularly the consumers and entrepreneurs who are also associates and partners in the formulation of economic policies. The inclusion of the sector in the board shall provide for a more integrated and coordinated food security policies.

Their participation will enable the agency to be more responsive to the concerns and agenda of all sectors of society which together constitute the working elements of the agricultural sectors of the national economy.

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


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL
IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Act 3601, as amended hereby further amended
to read as follows:

“SECTION 4. Board of Directors – The powers and functions of the National Irrigation Administration shall be exercised by the Board of Directors composed of six SEVEN members, to wit: The Secretary of Public Works and Highways, [Transportation and Communications who shall be the Chairman], the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Secretary of Agriculture, the [General Manager], President of the National Power Corporation, and (one) TWO members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, ONE upon the recommendation of any national rice and corn organization of good standing; AND SECOND, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHO SHALL BE A FILIPINO CITIZEN, AT LEAST THIRTY FIVE YEARS OF AGE, OF PROVEN HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND RECOGNIZED COMPETENCE, and who shall serve for a term of four years unless sooner removed FOR CAUSE OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS SHALL HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED AND APPOINTED.

“THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SHALL BE THE EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN AND THE VICE-CHARIMAN SHALL BE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION.

“In case of failure of a member to attend the meetings of the Board due to physical incapacity or any temporary disability, the Undersecretary or the Assistant Head of the office or agency to which the member concerned belongs, shall attend the meetings of the board, with the power to vote.

"For actual attendance at regular meetings, each member of the Board or his representative as authorized in the preceding paragraph, shall receive a per diem of [three hundred pesos] TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P2,500.00), and [one hundred pesos] one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for special meetings, but the total amount per diems that a member may receive in a month shall in no case be above [one thousand five hundred pesos] TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00). The Board shall fix the amount of representation and transportation allowance that the members may receive."

SEC. 2. *Appropriation.* Such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* All existing laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, or any parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,