

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



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SENATE  
S.B. NO. 14

RECEIVED BY: *fra*

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Introduced by SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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### Explanatory Note

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) was created by law in 1963 primarily to address the needs of the "Irrigation Age", and specifically to, "investigate and study all available and possible water resources in the Philippines, primarily for irrigation purposes; to plan, design, construct and/or improve all types of irrigation projects and appurtenant structures" (**Section 2, R.A. 3601, as amended by P.D. 552 and P.D. 1702**). For this purpose, the NIA has been given the necessary flexibility of a corporate vehicle and the administrative autonomy to pursue its statutory objectives.

The Department of Agriculture, in its 2011 yearend Report, gives the following account:

"The agriculture and fisheries sector has proven its resilience in the face of severe natural disasters. Recovering from the long dry spell in 2010, both palay and corn recorded 15.9% growth in volume at production levels of 10.75 million metric tons of rice and 5.49 million metric tons of corn. Agricultural production volume grew by 4.28 percent in the first nine months of 2011, a marked improvement over the 2.81 percent decline during the same period in 2010. It is worth noting that the growth achieved in rice production is the highest in the last 10 years." (Website of the Department of Agriculture).

This remarkable achievement mirrors the continuing efforts of the Government to address the growing agricultural needs of the country, and to provide stable food supply to every Filipino home.

However, the imminent effects of climate change pose a great challenge to the agriculture sector. The gains we have achieved could be devastated by natural calamities and disasters.


Hence, we need to establish a progressive and effective irrigation method to accelerate agricultural production and be self sufficient in the coming years despite the challenges ahead.

On reaching the NIA's half-century of its existence, there is a need for the Legislature to study the efficiency and possibly reassess the capabilities and worthiness of the NIA in the agricultural sector and bureaucratic structure in general.

Under existing law, NIA is obliged to only directly furnish a fiscal report to the Legislature and not a report of its operations and accomplishments. Thus, there is a need to require the NIA to directly furnish the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed status report of its programs, accomplishments and failed targets for a period of five (5) years, to enable the Congress to determine its efficiency rate.

This bill proposes to accelerate irrigation development in the country in order to address the pressing agricultural needs of our countrymen. It mandates the National Irrigation Authority to come up programs and plans of action to achieve this goal, within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

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

  
**FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR**



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SENATE  
SENATE BILL NO. 14

RECORDED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA)  
TO ACCELERATE NATIONAL IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as "**The National Irrigation  
Program of 2013.**"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to  
pursue a comprehensive agricultural development, through effective and  
progressive irrigation programs. Guided by the principle of self-sufficiency,  
the agricultural sector shall make full use of human and natural resources  
in order to attain greater productivity of all irrigable lands in the country.

SECTION 3. National Irrigation Program. The National Government  
shall undertake a comprehensive irrigation program, guided by the  
following objectives:

1. Generation, restoration and rehabilitation of the irrigation  
systems and facilities using progressive and modern irrigation  
methods;
2. Reformulation and upgrading of the irrigation method through  
continued research and development and application of  
technological advancements in the field of irrigation;
3. Acceleration of agricultural production through an improved  
irrigation methods;
4. Strengthened coordination with local government units,  
cooperatives, farmers' associations, non-governmental  
organizations, and technical assistance and development of the  
irrigation systems used in their respective areas and jurisdictions.

SECTION 4. Expediting of Irrigation Development Programs. - In line  
with the national policy objectives, the NIA is mandated to expedite its  
irrigation development programs and be able to irrigate ninety-five  
percent (95%) of irrigable lands all over the country, within a period of  
three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act. After the lapse of the three-  
year period, the NIA shall then submit to Congress a detailed report and  
satisfactory proof of its completion of the ninety-five-percent target.

SECTION 5. Continuing Research and Development. The NIA shall conduct continuing research and development as well as application of technological advancements in the field of irrigation.

SECTION 6. Technical Assistance to Local Government Units, Cooperatives, Farmers' Associations, Non-governmental Organizations. The NIA shall provide technical and financial assistance to local government units, cooperatives, farmers' associations, and non-governmental organizations with respect to irrigation systems located, utilized, and managed in their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 7. Submission of Detailed Status Report to Congress. - The NIA is hereby mandated to furnish Congress a detailed status report of its programs, targets and accomplishments for the preceding five (5) years. This is without prejudice to the NIA's obligation to furnish Congress with a Fiscal Report under Article VI, Section 11 of R.A. 3601.

SECTION 8. Funding and Appropriation. - The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the NIA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the succeeding General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. - The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable and if any clause, sentence, provision or section of this Act, for any reason, be held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Act which can be given force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, charters, executive orders, administrative orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,