



'17 MAY -2 A11 :33

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

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1419

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE AND THE CONDONATION OF**  
**BACK ACCOUNTS OR UNPAID IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES, AMORTIZATION AND**  
**EQUITY PAYMENTS OF FARMERS AND IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATIONS FROM THE**  
**NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Seventy percent (70%) of poor Filipinos are in rural areas where the main source of livelihood is farming. To alleviate poverty in rural areas, an integrated and holistic program of support services to agriculture must be carried out. One of the necessary and vital support services to agriculture is irrigation.

The National Irrigation Administration is mandated to manage and develop the irrigation system in the Philippines. It charges Irrigation Service Fees for the provision of irrigation service to farmers. It is estimated that irrigation costs six percent (6%) of a farmer's production spending per hectare.

To give Filipino farmers a boost, this bill proposes that free irrigation service should be made available, as provided in Republic Act No. 10924 or the General Appropriations Act of 2017 and every year thereafter to increase agricultural production for national development. Likewise, the back accounts or unpaid irrigation service fees, amortization and equity payments of farmers and irrigators' associations from the NIA should be condoned to free Filipino farmers from debt related to irrigation.

  

**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator



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**NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Irrigation Service  
2 and Condonation Act of 2017.”

3           **Sec. 2. Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to provide necessary and vital irrigation  
4 service and assistance to farmers to alleviate poverty in the rural areas and increase  
5 agricultural production for national development.

6           **Sec. 3. Free Irrigation Service.** – Free irrigation service under the National  
7 Irrigation Administration (NIA) shall be made available to farmers. The initial funding to  
8 carry out free irrigation service shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation.  
9 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the General Appropriations  
10 Act.

11           **Sec. 4. Condonation.** – All back accounts or unpaid irrigation service fees,  
12 amortization and equity payments of farmers and irrigators’ associations from the NIA  
13 prior to the effectivity of this Act are hereby condoned upon approval of this Act.

14           **Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or other  
15 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed  
16 or modified accordingly.

17           **Sec. 6. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
19 remain in force and effect.

20           **Sec. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the  
21 completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general  
22 circulation in the Philippines.

23           Approved,