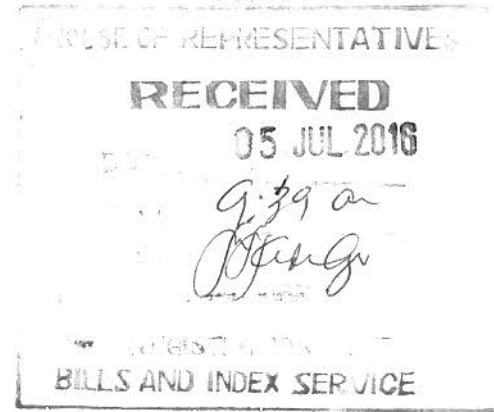


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 1053**



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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE MAGNOLIA ROSA C. ANTONINO**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE


Republic Act No. 3601 as amended, explicitly mandated the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to conduct multi-purpose water resources designed primarily for irrigation. The framers of the law intended to effectuate an economic means of achieving the optional and diversified utilization and control of water by undertaking integrated irrigation projects with the ends in view of promoting increased agricultural productivity in order to achieve the twin objectives of poverty alleviation and uplifting the quality of life of the farmers in the countrysides. It is sad to note however, that this authorized the collection of irrigation fees and administration charges from beneficiaries of water from all irrigation system to recover the cost of construction. Due to the common problems brought about by low production coupled with the rising cost of fertilizers, chemicals, and farm labor, as had been experienced by majority of the farmers, the collection of irrigation fees and administration charges had become an additional burden to our poor farmers.

It is important to note that when this law was enacted in 1963 and was amended eleven (11) years later, the situation was entirely different from now. The government now, has devoted substantial portion of its government resources in building irrigation systems and encourage more farmers to plant rice throughout the country in the hope of attaining rice self-sufficiency.

There are numerous bills which seek to condone the payment of irrigation fees and administration charges. However, such legislative measures would not in any way address the problem. Due to the prevailing financial condition of the government, it cannot afford to construct and maintain irrigation projects without collecting charges from the farmers. But the government must be considerate enough to grant subsidy to the farmers in order to alleviate their plight.

This bill therefore seeks to grant subsidy to farmers by deducting an amount equivalent to fifty percent (50%) from the total irrigation fees or administration charges. It is the primordial concern of this measure to provide a lasting solution acceptable and beneficial to both the government and the farmers.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**MAGNOLIA ROSA C. ANTONINO**  
Representative  
Fourth District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT  
GRANTING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY IN IRRIGATION  
FEES OR ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES COLLECTED FROM FARMERS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 (b) of Republic Act No. 3601, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552, entitled, "An Act Creating the National Irrigation Administration" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. *Powers and Objectives.* The NIA shall have the following powers and objectives:

(a) x                    x                    x

(b) To charge and collect from the beneficiaries of the water from all irrigation systems constructed by or under its administration, such fees or administration charges as may be necessary to recover the cost or operation, maintenance, and insurance, and to recover the cost of construction within a reasonable period of time to the extent consistent with the government policy; to recover funds or portions thereof expended for the construction and/or rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems which funds accrue to a special funds for irrigation development under Section 2 hereof[:]; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SHALL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE TOTAL IRRIGATION FEES OR ADMINISTRATION CHARGES AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO FIFTY PERCENT (50%) AS A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO THE FARMER'S BENEFICIARIES UNDER THIS ACT."

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SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*