

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 546



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*Introduced by Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga*

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**A RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL  
IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION'S IRRIGATION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE  
COUNTRY AND ITS ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE IRRIGATION NEEDS  
OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

**WHEREAS**, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is a government-owned and controlled corporation tasked to plan, construct, operate and maintain irrigation systems consistent with integrated water resource management principles contributing to agricultural productivity and increased farmers' income;

**WHEREAS**, NIA submitted a budget proposal for FY 2020 amounting to Fifty- Four Billion Eight Hundred Thirty-One Million One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Pesos (P54,831,122,000.00);

**WHEREAS**, after the Department of Budget and Management's (DBMs) review, they recommended a budget amounting to Thirty-Six Billion Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Million Two-Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Pesos (P36,277,289,000.00) for combined Tier 1 and Tier 2 budgets.

**WHEREAS**, DBM's primary consideration on the reduction of NIA's proposal are:

1. Implementation readiness of proposed programs/projects;
2. Assessment of absorptive capacity as basis the FY 2018 budget utilization
3. Consistency of the NIA's programs and projects with Budget Priorities Framework, the Philippine Development Plan, the Result Matrix, the Public Investment Program, as well as NIA's Strategic Plan;
4. Submission of indicative annual procurement plan; and
5. Result of consultations between Government-Owned or - Controlled Corporations with stakeholders on the government's expenditures priorities.

(2)

**WHEREAS**, it is reported that the 2018 approved budget amounting to P41.669 Billion is 99% obligated as of September 2019 with 83% utilization rate while FY 2019 budget amounting to P36.046 Billion, the obligation as of September 2019 is 78% with a utilization rate of 32% only because the total 2019 Budget was only received in full by NIA end of June 2019;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit's (COA's) annual audit report as of December 31, 2018, showed that NIA still has 299 uncompleted irrigation projects with a total contract cost of P20,704,244,492.00;

WHEREAS, COA said that the completion of the projects has been delayed for up to 2,287 days or 6.2 years, owing to the unsatisfactory performance of the contractors;

WHEREAS, the delay in the completion of the contract works deprived the farmer beneficiaries of the immediate use of said irrigation facilities;

**WHEREAS**, among the reasons cited by the audit body for the delayed completion of the projects were unworkable sites brought about by bad weather condition, flooding and water delivery, unsatisfactory performance of contractors or insufficient manpower and equipment of contractors, unresolved right of way (ROW), peace and order situation, existence of standing crops, and poor project planning, supervision, monitoring, and control;

WHEREAS, considering the billions of pesos spent by the government to finance the country's irrigation programs, it is important to know how NIA is using its funds and to determine NIA's absorptive capacity in implementing the various irrigation projects;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, to assess NIA's absorptive capacity to ensure that the needed irrigation projects are completed on time, in view of the vital role of NIA in the country's agricultural productivity.

**Adopted,**

  
**WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA**