Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1262

Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-list Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

A RESOLUTION
STRONGLY URGING THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO RESTORE THE FOUR BILLION TWO MILLION PESOS (PHP 4,200,000,000.00) PROPOSED FUND OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA) FOR THE REPAIR AND REHABILITATION OF COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS (CIS) IN THE COUNTRY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10969, otherwise known as the "Free Irrigation Services Act," declares that the State shall ensure the availability of vital support services—through the construction, repair, and maintenance of essential irrigation facilities—to increase the production of crops, encourage productivity, and increase the incomes of farmers;

WHEREAS, in line with its mandate under Republic Act No. 3601, as amended, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) spearheads the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems in the country, consistent with integrated water resource management principles, to improve agricultural productivity and increase farmers’ income;

WHEREAS, the NIA proposed Php42.4 billion agency budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
WHEREAS, the DBM only approved Php32.09 billion, 11% lower than the FY 2020 NIA budget of Php36.05 billion;

WHEREAS, the decrease in NIA’s budget allocation will adversely impact the existing programs and projects for farmers and irrigators associations, including the Irrigation Systems Restoration Program, specifically the repair and rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems (CIS);

WHEREAS, the slashed budget will impede in the rehabilitation programs of existing irrigation systems, including the substantial damage of the Rizal, Nueva Ecija super diversion canal, affecting 30,000 hectares of farmlands, and resulting in decreased rice production in Region III;

WHEREAS, restoring the proposed fund allocation for the repair and rehabilitation of CIS is aligned with the policy frameworks of the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, namely: the Philippine Development Plan (2017–2022); Build, Build, Build Program; Plant, Plant, Plant Program; and the Public Investment Program/ Three-Year Rolling Infrastructure Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Appropriations is strongly urged to restore the Four Billion Two Million Pesos (Php 4,200,000,000.00) proposed fund of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) for the repair and rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems (CIS) in the country.

Adopted,

REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT