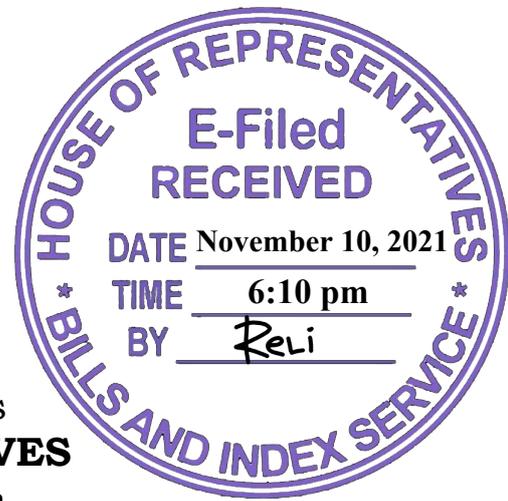




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10471

Introduced by Representative Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create an irrigation management office of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the City of General Santos, Province of South Cotabato.

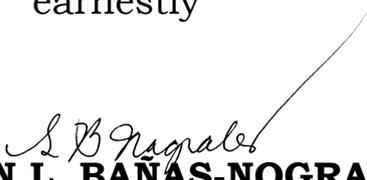
Irrigation systems are vital in rural areas. Farmers rely on efficient irrigation systems in many ways, such as in the planting, cultivating, and growing of crops and in protecting their farmlands against droughts, crop infestation, pollution, and climate change.

The NIA, an agency created under Republic Act No. 3601, as amended, entitled “*An Act Granting the National Irrigation Administration,*” is responsible for constructing, improving, and administering the irrigation systems in the country. It establishes irrigation management offices (IMOs) which are responsible for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation projects in one or a cluster of provinces. IMOs also implement the operation and maintenance plans for irrigation systems in collaboration with the farmer-beneficiaries.

In some places, like the City of General Santos, irrigation-related services are difficult to access because of the distance. Farmers residing in General Santos must travel 67 kilometers to reach the irrigation management office of NIA located in Koronadal City. The time and efforts required to complete the trip and follow the protocols consisting of queueing and waiting until the transaction is over are tiresome, exhausting, and time-consuming, not to mention the frequent bad weather conditions and the traffic which they may encounter along the way.

The establishment of an irrigation management office in the City of General Santos will reduce travel time and costs in transacting with the NIA. This will provide adequate level of irrigation services to the farmers on a sustainable basis, consistent with integrated water resource management principles and with greater efficiency and effectiveness. This will help farmers produce more crops and increase their income.

In order to increase agricultural productivity, and hasten the economic development in the area, which will benefit not only the residents of the City of General Santos but also its neighbouring municipalities in South Cotabato, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES
Representative
1st District, South Cotabato
& General Santos City



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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10471

Introduced by Representative Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING AN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF
THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION IN THE CITY
OF GENERAL SANTOS, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established an irrigation
management office of the National Irrigation Administration in
the City of General Santos, Province of South Cotabato.

The irrigation management office shall be responsible for the
construction, improvement, and rehabilitation of irrigation
projects, and implement the operation and maintenance plans of
irrigation systems in collaboration with the farmer-beneficiaries.

The irrigation management office shall also provide frontline

1 services of the National Irrigation Administration in the conduct
2 of its business and in the exercise of its powers and functions as
3 provided under Republic Act No. 3601, as amended, entitled “An
4 *Act Granting the National Irrigation Administration*” and such
5 additional powers and functions as hereafter be provided by law.

6 SEC. 2. The chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
7 National Irrigation Administration shall appoint the necessary
8 officers and employees to operate the irrigation management
9 office in the City of General Santos, Province of South Cotabato,
10 subject to civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

11 SEC. 3. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,
12 the chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National
13 Irrigation Administration shall, in coordination with the Secretary
14 of the Interior and Local Government, issue the necessary rules
15 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

16 SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the initial
17 implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current
18 appropriations of the National Irrigation Administration.
19 Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued
20 implementation shall be included in the annual General
21 Appropriations Act.

1 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
3 circulation.

4 Approved,

