A RESOLUTION

URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE TO REVERT
THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION
ADMINISTRATION (NIA) FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE
OF DA OF BECOMING A FOOD-SECURE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, Section 42 of the Administrative Code of 1987 provides for the
applicable relationship of government-owned or controlled corporations to the
appropriate departments that they shall be attached and with which they have allied
functions for policy and program coordination and general supervision;

WHEREAS, stated in Republic Act No. 3601, and further reaffirmed in Presidential
Decree No. 522, the primary responsibility of the National Irrigation Administration
(NIA) upon its establishment is the implementation of irrigation integrated program of
the government to attain the “Irrigation Age” and, through a substantial investment of
government funds, to increase agricultural production to improve the income of people,
affording them the capacity to comply with their obligations and responsibilities to the
government

WHEREAS, through Executive Order No. 165, series of 2014, NIA, together with
the National Food Authority (NFA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), and the Fertilizer
and Pesticide Authority (FPA), was transferred from the Department of Agriculture (DA)
to the Office of the President;
WHEREAS, a Memorandum from the Executive Secretary - Office of the President was issued on 03 November 2016 designating the Secretary of the Office of the Cabinet Secretary as Chairperson of the NIA Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, in the past five consecutive years, the Commission on Audit (COA) reports the irregularities in the NIA projects that involve billions of peso contracts, including the engagement of contractors with insufficient documents and non-disclosure of project costs, among others, which violate Republic Act No. 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act;

WHEREAS, the inability of NIA to fully and satisfactorily address the issues in the implementation of irrigation projects such as considerable delays in the performance of contractors, inadequate planning, inefficient surveys and investigation of the areas of construction, inter alia, that waste the government funds and deprive the Filipino farmers of its intended benefits;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is the lead government agency equipped to provide policy directions and support services for the development of agriculture;

WHEREAS, to achieve the objective of DA of becoming a food-secure country is largely dependent on the ability of farmers to access efficient, reliable, and sufficient irrigation facilities, in combination with the application of modern technologies and farm mechanization, to ensure timely planting activities and sustained yields;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte is urged to revert the supervision and control of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) from the Office of the President to the Department of Agriculture (DA) to achieve the objective of DA of becoming a food-secure country.

Adopted,

ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT