

[OP EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 718, April 08, 2008]

**AUTHORIZING THE PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RATIONALIZATION PLAN OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION
ADMINISTRATION AND THE AVAILMENT OF THE SEPARATION
INCENTIVE PACKAGE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 366**

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 366 (Directing a Strategic Review of the Operations and Organizations of the Executive Branch and Providing Options and Incentives for Government Employees Who May Be Affected by the Rationalization of the Functions and Agencies of the Executive Branch) mandates all Departments/Agencies of the Executive Branch and their component units/bureaus, including all corporations, boards, task forces, councils, commissions and all other agencies attached to or under the administrative supervision of the Department to submit a Rationalization Plan to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for its approval by virtue of the delegated authority of the President.

WHEREAS, in compliance with said Executive Order, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has formulated its own Rationalization Plan based on several parameters, among them, the provisions of RA 3601, as amended by PD 552 and PD 1702, RA8435 Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), and RA7606 (An Act providing a Magna Carta of Small Farmers);

WHEREAS, said laws mandate the NIA to turnover in whole or in part national irrigation systems to duly organized beneficiaries, in this case the Irrigators Associations (IAs) who are the direct beneficiaries of completed irrigation projects/systems;

WHEREAS, RA No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 devolves the construction, operation and maintenance of communal irrigation systems to Local Government Units (LGU) and mandates the NIA to provide technical assistance to them relative to the development of communal irrigation projects/systems;

WHEREAS, IAs have to be developed and empowered to take over the operation, repair and maintenance of irrigation facilities, and the irrigation canals and facilities restored to good condition before the turnover of the management, operation and maintenance can take place;

WHEREAS, given the factors mentioned above, the Rationalization of the NIA would necessitate a phased implementation to ensure the progressive build-up of NIA's infrastructure and organizational capability to sustain irrigation management consistent with the modern realities of rural and agricultural;

WHEREAS, in line with the objectives of the National Government to propel sustainable rural development and ensure food security for the country, the NIA has obtained the support of the World Bank for the financing of the Participatory