

BUDGET PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Cognizant of the following recent milestone developments:

The Aquino Administration's thrust to strengthen democratic institutions through people empowerment, particularly in promoting the principles and practice of good governance;

The Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) commitment to integrate citizens' participation in the budget process as a means of enhancing transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilization of public funds;

The overwhelming response of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to help enhance efficiency and effectiveness in Government and to curb corruption through its efforts in monitoring Government programs, activities and projects;

The execution of the Principles of Engagement signed by DBM and some CSOs committed to budget reform on September 3, 2012; and

The issuance on December 29, 2011 of the Budget Call for FY 2013 (National Budget Memorandum No. 112 and Corporate Budget Memorandum No. 33) that seeks *"To lay down the procedures for the conduct of agency consultations at the central and regional levels with civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, the Regional Development Councils and other stakeholders to secure feedback on programs and projects of selected departments and corporations."*

We, the **NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA)**, a government owned and controlled corporation created by virtue of R.A. 3601 (as amended by PD 552 and PD 1702) with principal address at EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, represented by its Administrator, **ANTONIO S. NANGEL** and the **ACTION FOR ECONOMIC REFORMS (AER)**, a non-stock/non-profit non-government organization, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and address at Unit 1403 West Trade Center Building, 132 West Avenue, Barangay PhilAm, Quezon City, represented by its President, **JESSICA REYES CANTOS**;

1. Agree to work in close partnership with each other in pursuit of our common objectives:

- a) in general, to make the national budget more responsive to the country's development needs and pressing concern to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of public services, and

b) in particular, to enhance the quality of the budget process through citizens' participation in the preparation of the FY 2013 National Budget.

2. In order to meaningfully complement and reinforce each other's efforts in the evaluation and assessment of ongoing programs, activities or projects in compliance with the FY 2013 Budget Call, we further agree to:

a) cover the programs/activities/ projects of the National Irrigation Administration under the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture,

b) faithfully fulfil the following respective roles and responsibilities.

3. OBLIGATIONS OF NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

a) officially designate a contact person through whom all communications, both incoming and outgoing, pertaining to the BPA shall be coursed. Such designation shall be publicly disseminated at least by posting the NIA website with the contact details to include, at a minimum, office mailing address, e-mail address, office telephone and fax numbers;


b) observe the timelines and dates, time and venues of CSO consultations with AER;

c) adequately and promptly provide AER the updated budget documents and year end reports (2008-2011) as soon as possible after the signing of the BPA, to enable AER to send in substantive feedback, comments and recommendations as inputs to the consultation;

d) take into consideration the feedback, findings and recommendations of AER in the formulation of their budget proposal and shall reflect/present their decisions in Table 1 of the FY 2013 Budget Call;

e) immediately after submission to DBM, provide AER copy of accomplished Table 1 of the FY 2013 Budget Call and endeavour to discuss these decisions with them; and

f) continue to work with AER on budget-related matters until the approval of the FY 2013 budget.



4. OBLIGATIONS OF ACTION FOR ECONOMIC REFORMS (AER)

- a) officially designate a contact person through whom all communications pertaining to the BPA, both incoming and outgoing, shall be coursed. Such designation shall be publicly disseminated, at least on the AER's website, containing the contact details to include, at a minimum, office mailing address, e-mail address, office telephone, fax and mobile numbers;
- b) submit as soon as possible, copy of the completed review, assessment or evaluation of specific program, activity or project, with an executive summary of the findings and specific recommendations of the AER. The evaluation report shall be duly substantiated, indicating the methodology used and the parties involved in the evaluation;
- c) attend all consultation meetings and those that may later be set. When AER's representative is unable to attend, send as soon as possible via e-mail or fax, feedback, comments and recommendations as inputs to the consultation;
- d) observe the timetable set by DBM for submission of inputs to NIA, aware that NIA is legally bound to submit proposals on time, and will not be able to wait for delayed inputs; and
- e) affiliate with other CSOs in order to expand the scope of evaluation and assessment, and provide NIA and DBM a copy of such Affiliation/Partnership Agreement.

5. Lastly, we agree to adhere at all times to the following principles of constructive engagement:

- a) Transparency - provide all parties as well as the general public, timely access to relevant and verified information/data subject to the limits of the law;
- b) Accountability - abide by the policies, standards and guidelines of engagement that may be agreed upon, and fulfil commitments;
- c) Integrity - adhere to moral and professional standards in fulfilling commitments;
- d) Partnership - cooperate and share responsibilities to ensure that the objectives of the engagement are achieved;




- e) Consultation and mutual empowerment - enhance knowledge sharing and continuing dialogue;
- f) Respect for internal processes - understand and abide by the limitations of the stakeholders with respect to the nature of the information to be disclosed and the extent of involvement based on the institutional/legally imposed limitations;
- g) Sustainability - ensure continuing engagement by instituting progressive policies and operational mechanisms that will promote an environment of mutual trust; and
- h) National interest - uphold the national welfare above the interest of organizations and individuals.

This Agreement takes effect immediately.

April 24, 2012, Quezon City.

SIGNED BY:


ANTONIO S. NANGEL
Administrator
National Irrigation Administration


MS. JESSICA REYES CANTOS
President
Action for Economic Reforms (AER)

WITNESS :





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
Quezon City)S.S.


BEFORE ME, this APR 26 2012 April 2012 personally appeared the following:

	ID	Issued at	Issued on
ANTONIO S. NANGEL	Passport No. XX3962699	DFA-Pampanga	06/15/2009
JESSICA REYES CANTOS	Driver's Lic. No. D01-83-016170, LTO QC,		12/12/2011

known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing agreement consisting of five (5) pages including this acknowledgment, and who acknowledged to me that the same are their free act and deed.

NOTARY PUBLIC

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Page No. 31;
Book No. IV;
Series of 2012.


ATTY. MAXIMO S. ALVAREZ
NOTARY PUBLIC
NOTARIAL COMMISSION NO. NP-487
UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2012
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