



Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

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QUEZON CITY PHILIPPINES

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OUR REFERENCE:

MC 13, Series 2010

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : SR. DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS,
DEPARTMENT/REGIONAL OPERATIONS/PROJECT MANAGERS,
MANAGERS OF IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICES, ALL
OTHER CONCERNED
National Irrigation Administration

SUBJECT : STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECT OF EL NIÑO
PHENOMENON ON SYSTEMS OPERATIONS

It could be noted that rainfall in our watersheds and service areas start to decrease since the beginning of the first cropping season 2010 and this results to decreased stream flows. This phenomenon jibes with the drought prognosis as forecasted by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical & Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Anent the above, hereunder are different strategies to be adopted to mitigate the effect of the dry spell in our systems operations:

A. PRE-IRRIGATION PERIOD

1. In the derivation of programmed areas for irrigation as reflected in Operation Plan, use stream flow values equaled to and/or exceeded 80 % of the time;
2. Discuss jointly with the Irrigators Associations (IAs) which portion of the irrigation system shall be included in programmed areas and what scheme of water distribution will be adopted;
3. Plant short-duration rice varieties;
4. Consider planting of diversified crops that consumes less irrigation water;

B. DURING IRRIGATION

5. Start dry season 2010 earlier compared to the regular dry seasons, say two to four weeks earlier such that harvest period will fall on the driest months of the year;
6. Shorten the duration of land soaking and land preparation period, say from four to two weeks;
7. Adopt water saving technologies such as the Sustainable System in Irrigated Agriculture (SSIA);

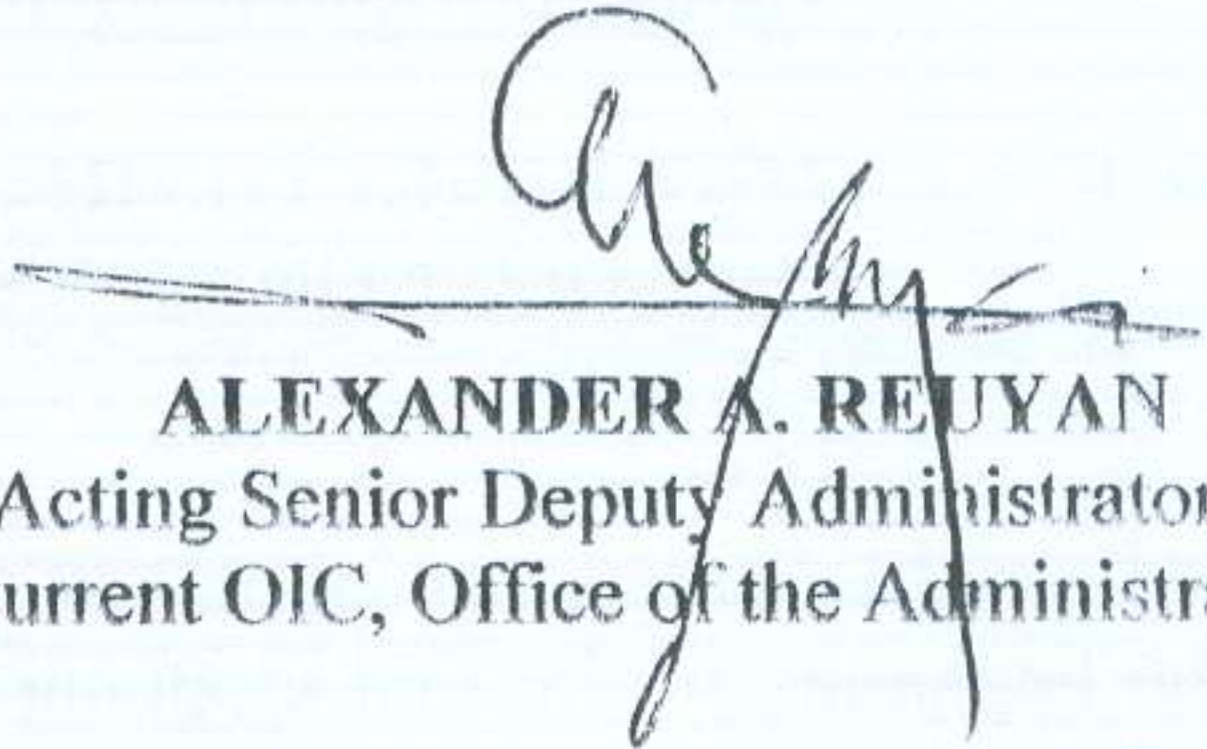
8. Implement rotational irrigation by segment;
9. Strict enforcement of irrigation schedules as agreed with the IAs;
10. Proper maintenance of canal embankments and paddy bunds to minimize conveyance and farm losses;
11. Re-use available waters in the creeks by constructing checks along the creeks using earth and any other available materials like banana trunks, woods, etc; and
12. Conjunctive use of sub-surface irrigation using available shallow tube wells (STWs) and surface water pumps (SWPs).

Further, if funds will be available, the following programs will be considered for funding:

1. Establishment/construction of small farm reservoirs;
2. Construction of concrete check gates along creeks;
3. Repair/Rehabilitation of dilapidated facilities and structures;
4. Procurement of SRWs/SWPs;

You are instructed to submit report as regard compliant actions taken at your respective area of responsibility on the mid-part of the cropping season and as soon as harvest is over.

Please be guided accordingly.


ALEXANDER A. REUYAN
Acting Senior Deputy Administrator,
concurrent OIC, Office of the Administrator

22 February 2010