



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 629


Introduced by **Representative JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO**

As of the last quarter of 2018, there were only 53 Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRC) operating across the country. An additional 11 DOH-accredited DATRCs are currently being constructed and expected to be operational by the last quarter of 2019. However, despite the considerable increase of new rehabilitation centers, the number of arrests and surrenders that have occurred since the Duterte administration heightened its fight on drug addiction and drug trafficking still render the DATRCs insufficient in numbers and bed space capacity.

This bill seeks to strengthen the administration's crusade against illegal drugs by providing the supplementary tools needed to curb addiction in the form of a drug treatment and rehabilitation facility in the province of Davao Oriental.

By providing a facility for the management and cure of drug dependence, those who became victims of drugs, either through desperation, poverty or ignorance are given the chance to be cured and turn their lives around. However, as rehabilitation and treatment of drug dependence is costly and inaccessible, particularly for those coming from the far-flung areas like Davao Oriental, it is the thrust of this bill to establish a DATRC that will be geographically closer and reachable. In doing so, the campaign against drugs will be all-inclusive in that it gives those who can be redeemed the chance to heal. By supplementing the administration's police action - that is of incarceration, prosecution and punishment - the envisioned Davao Oriental DATRC will close the gap in the war against drugs, and ensure that all battles against this evil are won.

Support for this bill is earnestly sought.


JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO
Representative

2nd District, Davao Oriental



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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

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HOUSE BILL NO. 629

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DAVAO ORIENTAL DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT
AND REHABILITATION CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Statement of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the state to protect and
2 advance the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property,
3 and the promotion of the general welfare for the enjoyment of all people of the blessings
4 of democracy.

5 It is likewise the responsibility of the State to protect the dignity of every human
6 person and guarantee full respect of human rights.

7 Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to provide basic services for the
8 rehabilitation and cure of those afflicted and have fallen victim to the dangers of
9 controlled substances.

10
11 **SECTION 2. *Creation of the Davao Oriental Drug Abuse Treatment and***
12 ***Rehabilitation Center.*** - A drug rehabilitation center is hereby created in the province
13 of Davao Oriental to be called the Davao Oriental Drug Abuse Treatment and
14 Rehabilitation Center (DATRC).

15 **SECTION 3. *Objectives and Functions.*** - The Davao Oriental DATRC shall have
16 the following objectives and functions:

- (1) To provide care, treatment and accommodation to every person found to be dependent on drugs;
- (2) To train drug dependents to become physically, socially, and psychologically capable of coping with problems common to his peer group;
- (3) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, care, treatment and control of drug addiction;
- (4) To provide after-care, follow-up and social reintegration services to every drug dependent in order to assist in his assimilation to his family and community after his release from the center;
- (5) To provide each drug dependent motivation to regain self-confidence, rediscover working abilities and develop a renewed sense of responsibility;
- (6) To encourage the formation of organizations and associations composed of parents, guardians, and immediate relatives of drug dependents in order to raise awareness and enhance their participation in the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of their relatives or wards;
- (7) To undertake continuous training of physicians, nurses, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific methods of prevention, care, treatment and rehabilitation of persons found to be drug dependents; and
- (8) To strengthen the emotional and spiritual make-up of every drug dependent by conducting regular guidance and counseling sessions as well as interdenominational church services.

SECTION 4. Location. – The Davao Oriental DATRC shall be located in the most practicable location within the provincial capital, the City of Mati.

SECTION 5. Organization. – The Davao Oriental DATRC shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health, and vested with powers

1 generally exercised by a chief of a government hospital. He shall be assisted by two (2)
2 Deputy Directors who shall likewise be appointed by the Secretary of Health and vested
3 with the powers of an assistant chief of a government hospital.

4 The Director may appoint such personnel and staff as may be necessary for the
5 effective operation of the rehabilitation center subject to existing laws, rules and
6 regulations.

7
8 **SECTION 6. Qualifications.** – The Center Director must possess the following
9 qualifications upon appointment:

- 10 a) At least thirty-five years of age;
11 b) A licensed physician of good reputation; and
12 c) Have at least five (5) years experience in the care, treatment and rehabilitation
13 of drug dependents.

14
15 It shall be mandatory for all officials, personnel and staff employed and/or
16 detailed in the rehabilitation center to undergo regular integrity tests and trainings, and
17 other measures to prevent infiltration by drug syndicates into the rehabilitation center
18 and system.

19
20 **SECTION 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of
21 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Health.
22 Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Center
23 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

24
25 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is
26 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby
27 shall remain in full force and effect.

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29 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
30 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
31 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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1 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
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4 *Approved.*