

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5051



Introduced by **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to designate the Municipality of Ipil within the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay as the regional center of Region IX which is composed of the Provinces of Zamboanga Del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga Del Sur and Zamboanga City.

The Regional Center for Region IX was only created by virtue of Executive Order No. 429 issued by then President Corazon C. Aquino on October 12, 1990. In fact, Section 1 of EO No. 429 states that "The City of Pagadian shall serve as the regional center, while the City of Zamboanga shall remain the commercial and industrial center." As a result, various Government Regional Offices are scattered within the peninsula. This then results to imposing additional burden to our citizens by compelling them to withstand strenuous travel conditions as well as endure lengthy travel time just to conduct their own personal businesses within said offices.

Regional Offices (IX) and their Location	
Department of Agrarian Reform	Zamboanga City
Department of Agriculture	Zamboanga City
National Irrigation Administration	Pagadian City, Zamboanga Del Sur
Department of Budget and Management	Zamboanga City
Department of Education	Pagadian City, Zamboanga Del Sur
Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Pagadian City, Zamboanga Del Sur
Department of Finance (Bureau of Local Government Finance)	Pagadian City, Zamboanga Del Sur
Department of Health	Zamboanga City
Department of the Interior and Local Government	Pagadian City, Zamboanga Del Sur
Department of Justice	Zamboanga City
Department of Labor and Employment	Zamboanga City
Department of Public Works and Highways	Zamboanga City
Department of Science and Technology	Zamboanga City
Department of Social Welfare and Development	Zamboanga City
Department of Tourism	Zamboanga City
Department of Trade and Industry	Zamboanga City

As seen from the table above, various regional offices within region IX are located within Pagadian City, Province of Zamboanga Del Sur and Zamboanga City. It is noteworthy to point out that the time required to travel from the farthest Municipality in Zamboanga Del Norte to Zamboanga City and vice versa as well as the time required to travel from the farthest Municipality in Zamboanga Del Sur to Zamboanga City and vice versa could take as long as eight (8) hours as illustrated in the map below.

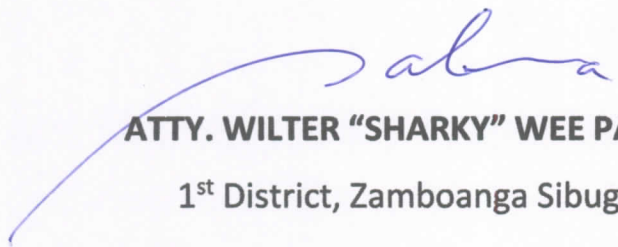


Moreover, the possibility of a person to accomplish multiple transactions within the agencies located in different locations is low simply because of the immense amount of time and resources required to travel between both cities.

As such, being at the geographical center of Zamboanga Peninsula, the Municipality of Ipil within the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay serves as the prime strategic location for the relocation of facilities, government offices and businesses which greatly improves the accessibility of various government services and

heighten their efficiency as a whole. Moreover, the Provincial Government of Zamboanga Sibugay is willing to assist the transfer of these Regional Offices to the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay in the form of infrastructure and personnel compliment for the prompt realization of this bill. With efficiency and accessibility in mind, the designation of the Municipality of Ipil as the regional center for Region IX shall pave way towards enhanced coordination and cooperation amongst its regional offices as well as augment the current economic ecosystem of the region towards achieving the betterment of the lives of our people.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II

1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5051

Introduced by **HON. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

**AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MUNICIPALITY OF IPIL
WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
AS THE REGIONAL CENTER OF REGION IX**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Regional Center of Region IX*** – The Municipality of Ipil within the
2 Province of Zamboanga Sibugay is hereby designated as the Regional Center of
3 Region IX which is composed of the provinces of Zamboanga Del Norte, Zamboanga
4 Sibugay and Zamboanga Del Sur.

5
6 **SEC. 2. *Development Plan*** – The Regional Development Council of Region IX shall,
7 in coordination with the local government units, national government agencies and
8 instrumentalities and businesses in Region IX, formulate an overall development
9 program and strategic plan in order to redefine the Municipality of Ipil as the
10 designated Regional Center.

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14 **SEC. 3. *Relocation of Regional Offices*** – All Regional Offices within the Region IX
15 shall be relocated to the Municipality of Ipil within one year from the effectivity of
16 this Act. The heads of departments, agencies, bureaus, government-owned-and-
17 controlled-corporations and government financial institutions shall support the
18 regional officers in adopting and implementing their respective relocation plans,
19 including measures that will address the concerns of the employees affected by the
20 transfer.

21

22 **SEC. 4. *Satellite Offices*** – Upon the complete relocation of the regional offices to
23 the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, all existing regional offices shall automatically
24 be converted into satellite offices for such department within the province where
25 it is located.

26

27 **SEC. 5. *Funding*** – The amount necessary for the development, maintenance and
28 administration of the regional center shall be drawn from the internally generated
29 funds of the local government units in Region IX and the National Government.
30 Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued operation of the Regional
31 Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

32

33 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause***. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
34 thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
35 or amended accordingly.

36

37 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity***. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
38 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

39

40 Approved,