

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL No. 2533

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill intends to provide another Department of Foreign Affairs – Regional Consular Office (RCO) Satellite Office in the Province of Pangasinan to be located in the Municipality of Bugallon, to entertain and accommodate all request for passport issuance and renewal.

At present, the only Regional Consular Office of the DFA is located in the Municipality of Calasiao, Province of Pangasinan which is serving the whole province which, according to the 2015 Census, has a population of 2,957,000 and an annual population growth rate of 1.18 percent. The RCO satellite office in the said site is always crowded and people are coming from far flung locations in the province travelling long hours, waiting among thousands of people everyday spending so much money and effort.

The establishment of another RCO Satellite Office to serve those coming from Western Pangasinan will lessen the congestion in the RCO Satellite Office in Calasiao, cut the waiting time, cut the cost of travel of our constituents and provide them efficient and faster service. The Municipality of Bugallon is very accessible to all the Municipalities of the First and Second Legislative District of Pangasinan, and the northern municipalities of the Provinces of Tarlac and Zambales, hence an ideal location to establish an RCO Satellite Office.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is then earnestly requested.


HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGIONAL
CONSULAR OFFICE - SATELLITE OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
BUGALLON, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR..

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

SECTION 1. – There shall be established a Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) – Regional Consular Office (RCO) Satellite Office (SO) to be located in the Municipality of Bugallon, Province of Pangasinan”.

SECTION 2. – The DFA-RCO Satellite Office shall serve, but not limited, to constituents from the First and Second Legislative Districts of Pangasinan which includes the Municipalities of Agno, Anda, Bani, Bolinao, Burgos, Dasol, Infanta, Mabini, Sual, Alaminos City, Aguilar, Basista, Binmaley, Bugallon, Labrador, Lingayen, Mangatarem, and Urbiztondo and other municipalities and cities of Pangasinan, as well as the northern municipalities of Tarlac and Zambales.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall include in the Department of Foreign Affairs’ program, the operationalization of the RCO Satellite in Bugallon, Pangasinan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. . This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.