

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon city, Metro Manila
EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 4444

Introduced by:

RUDY S. CAOAGDAN
Province of Cotabato Second District Representative

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is being introduced to establish a regular Department of Foreign Affairs' Consular Office in the Province of Cotabato particularly to be located at Kidapawan city, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes.

Interest in going to foreign countries, either for job, research, education tourist/luxury travel and other purposes had increasingly gone to great heights. This is enabled not only by the affordable cost of transportation but the promising opportunities which travelling abroad have.

With this, the influx of people processing their passports have also increased. People in the Province of Cotabato have to travel to as far as Davao city, General Santos city and Cagayan de Oro city just to process their passports resulting to clog the consular offices of these three (3) cities. The result is that people, especially from the Province of Cotabato, has to spend much money and effort just to get their passports.

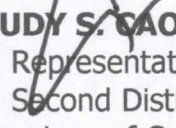
This is aggravated when their papers are not complete which would require them again to travel back home to get the required papers and then travel again to these consular offices to complete the requirements so that they can get their passports. The risk involve in the travel adds to the inconvenience suffered by the people of the Province of Cotabato.

Enabling the accessibility of the consular office by establishing one in the Province of Cotabato will be a realization of the social justice provision in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Article II, Section 10 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states, "The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development". Embraced in the meaning of social justice is the equalization of opportunities and these opportunities include social opportunity. The services offered by the Department of Foreign Affairs through its consular offices fall within the ambit of social opportunity.

In passing this bill, not only the people of the Province of Cotabato will be benefited. It will also cater to the needs of the people of the provinces of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat, municipalities of Lanao del Sur near the boundary of the Province of Cotabato and Cotabato city.

It will also enhance the accessibility of the Overseas Foreign Workers (OFWs) in the Province of Cotabato and the other mentioned provinces and city in speedily getting their problems reached the Department of Foreign Affairs and can facilitate remedies with dispatch.

Prescinding, there is a need to establish a regular Department of Foreign Affairs' Consular Office in the Province of Cotabato particularly in Kidapawan city. The approval of this measure is respectfully sought.


RUDY S. GAOAGDAN
Representative
Second District
Province of Cotabato

An Act Establishing A Regular Department Foreign of Affairs' Consular Office in the Province of Cotabato, Particularly in Kidapawan City, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes.

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

Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "Establishment of Regular Department of Foreign Affairs' Consular Office in the Province of Cotabato particularly in Kidapawan City".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote social justice in all phases of development. Social justice includes social opportunity and that this opportunity be made available to everybody.

Section 3. Establishment of the Consular Office. There shall be established a regular Department of Foreign Affairs Consular Office in the Province of Cotabato, particularly in Kidapawan city.

Section 4. Nature of the Consular Office. The consular office sought to be established through this bill is a regular office and not a satellite office.

Section 5. Functions. The regular consular office sought to be established shall perform functions the same as those which are being performed by the existing regular consular offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Section 6. Appropriations. Funding for this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment and so forth.

Section 7. Separability Clause. Provisions of this Act not declared as unconstitutional shall remain effective.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are repealed or amended.

Section 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.