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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2690**

**Introduced by: Representative Shernee A. Tan**

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Since President Rodrigo R. Duterte assumed the presidency on July 1, 2016, the Philippine National Police has been aggressive in its campaign to eradicate illegal drugs in the country. In its program dubbed as the "Toktok-Hangyo" (knock and convince), press reports have counted so far, more than five hundred drug users and pushers who had been killed in police operations and more than one hundred twenty thousand had voluntarily surrendered to authorities in various parts of the country.

But the deluge of drug dependents and peddlers surrendering brought to the fore the issue, "What can the government offer to them so as not to return to their old vice?"

In his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Duterte revealed that there are over three million people involved in drugs, either as users or pushers. It is sad to note that a lot of drug dependents prefer not to be rehabilitated due to the prohibitive cost of rehabilitation which is beyond the reach of addicts from impoverished families.

The privately-owned rehabilitation centers charge their patients ranging from P10,000.00 to P100,000.00 per month depending on the facility and the type of rehabilitation while government facilities charged P5,000.00 to P10,000.00.

But with the upsurge of drug-related killings, it is more compelling to undergo rehabilitation than face extrajudicial death sentence.

There are only more than sixty (60) rehabilitation centers in the Philippines and all of them have been operating on full capacity and have turned away patients for lack of accommodation. It is therefore very alarming if we consider the fact that the number of people who voluntarily surrendered only constitutes a measly four percent (4%) of the total number of people, who are hooked into drugs.

As the government cannot be able to exterminate and rehabilitate all of them under the present situation, the time for us to act is now to mitigate, if not to totally eliminate the problem.

It is also worthy to share the timely statement made by Vice-Governor Dennis Pineda of Pampanga: "We cannot just make them surrender and leave them hanging in the air. If we want to end the war against the prohibited drugs, we should strive to make them useful citizens again." And this can be done by building an accessible refuge where the victims of drug addiction can go and help treat themselves.

**This bill therefore seeks to establish a drug treatment and rehabilitation center in every province under the supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).**

The victims of drug addiction are people just like us, who have physical, emotional and psychological needs that should be addressed in order to help them improve and change their lives.

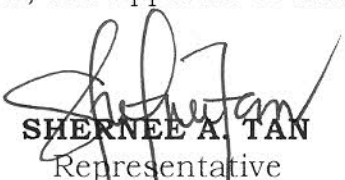
The main objective of the treatment and rehabilitation center is to help the addicts recover from drug abuse, and mental disorder. It has a team of doctors and staff members who will provide treatment to patients suffering from substance abuse and re-occurring disorders.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in the United States, those who complete drug abuse rehabilitation are more likely to achieve sobriety, have fewer run-ins with the law, experiences fewer relapses, and enjoy better relations with family members, friends and colleagues than those who do not participate in treatment.

It is a fact that establishing a treatment and rehabilitation center in every province will be very costly to the government. Therefore, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of such facility. The amount of ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be taken from the allocation for infrastructure projects of each legislative district and from each partylist representative. The size of the Center in each province will vary according to the number of population. If no source of funding will be identified to build such an important facility, even if this bill is enacted into law, this will only add up to the reported 85 unfunded laws that require a total of P500 Billion to be implemented.

The recovery of the patients and the long term benefits are far more important and greatly beneficial for every Filipino than the costs and fees of establishing and maintaining a treatment and rehabilitation center.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**SHERNEE A. TAN**  
Representative  
Kusug Tausug Partylist

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION**  
**CENTER IN EVERY PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. *Establishment.*** - There shall be established in every province a drug treatment and rehabilitation center under the supervision and control of the Department of Health (DOH).

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and also to value the dignity of every human person, who must be accorded full respect for human rights. Toward this end, drug dependents must be given an opportunity to be given proper treatment and rehabilitation in an environment in which human beings can grow and regain self-confidence.

**SEC. 3. *Fundamental Objectives and Responsibilities.*** - The drug treatment and rehabilitation center shall provide comprehensive rehabilitation services utilizing such accepted modalities as multidisciplinary team approach, therapeutic community approach and/or spiritual services with the goal of changing the patient's destructive thinking and behavioral pattern, teach them personal responsibility, create a sense of human community and endorse a sense of values and belief to help them combat drug addiction and eventually prepare for social re-integration.

**SEC. 4. *Location of the Provincial Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center.*** - The lot shall be donated or purchased by the provincial government where the Center shall be constructed. The province shall determine the site of the Provincial Drug Treatment and Center.

**SEC. 5. *Design, Policies, Terms and Conditions.*** - The DOH shall prepare the design of the structure, in consultation with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), with due consideration to service facilities, and formulate policies, guidelines, terms and conditions relative to the operation and maintenance of the Center.

**SEC. 6. *Organization, Compensation and Qualifications; Personnel and Staff.*** - The Secretary of the DOH shall appoint the Chief of the Center who shall have the same qualifications, compensation and powers generally exercised by the Chief of a Provincial Hospital.

The Chief of the Center shall appoint the personnel and staff necessary as determined by the DOH Regional Director.

**SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the construction of the Center shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Center shall be charged against the annual appropriations of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

**SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***- Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health shall, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

***Approved,***