

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2654**



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**INTRODUCED BY REP. JB BERNOS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Province of Abra faces an odd situation. Geographically, it is nearer to La Union, where most government offices are located in the regional center of San Fernando City. Politically, Abra is subsumed under the Cordillera Administrative Region that has its regional center in Baguio City. The problem of proximity to government centers poses a problem for Abreños who need quick solutions for their documentary requirements for work, school, or personal uses. They would have to travel to San Fernando City or Baguio City, or as far as Metro Manila, just to be able to get their needed government-issued documents. Moreover, government agencies with offices in Abra are not located close to each other – a situation that incurs both tangible and intangible costs for the people.

There is a need to create a Government Center in Abra where relevant government offices are all located for the convenience of both the government agencies and the people. This Government Center shall be a complex where inter-agential concerns related to their functions can be harmonized. Furthermore, the people coming in from Abra, and even from adjacent provinces like Apayao and Kalinga, will benefit with the clustering of government offices in one venue. In addition, it will create jobs for many Abreños, especially those well-versed in clerical operations and information technology.

In the light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. JB BERNOS**  
Lone District, Abra

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT CENTER FOR SATELLITE OFFICES**  
**OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF**  
**LA PAZ, PROVINCE OF ABRA**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Policy Objective.** It shall be the policy of the State to protect and  
2       promote the welfare of Filipinos by streamlining the delivery of government services  
3       and providing access to these basic services, especially to regions that are  
4       geographically distant from regional urban centers where most government offices  
5       are located and government-issued documents are processed. To this end, the State  
6       shall endeavor to empower communities with access to these basic government  
7       services and to free the People from the unnecessary burdens stemming from  
8       bureaucratic inefficiency.

9       **Sec. 2. Establishment of a Government Center in Abra.** There shall be  
10       established a Government Center in the Province of Abra that shall house satellite  
11       offices of various national government agencies involved in the processing and

1 issuance of common documentary requirements for whatever legitimate purpose or  
2 activity, as needed by the people.

3 **Sec. 3. *Satellite Offices Housed in the Government Center.*** The satellite  
4 offices of government agencies housed in the Government Center shall include, but  
5 not limited to, the following:

6 a. *Commission on Higher Education (CHED)* for verification and authentication  
7 of school credentials, and for the processing and issuance of other  
8 documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other  
9 necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

10 b. *Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)* for all passport services and other  
11 consular concerns, including the issuance of other necessary  
12 authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

13 c. *Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)* for the processing and  
14 issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the  
15 issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be  
16 needed;

17 d. *Land Transportation Office (LTO)* for the processing of documentations  
18 related to the registration of vehicles and to the issuance of driver's licenses,  
19 including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there  
20 any be needed;

21 e. *National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)* for the processing and issuance of an  
22 NBI clearance, and other documentary permits and requirements, and the



1 issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be  
2 needed;

3 f. *Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)* for the processing of  
4 OWWA membership/Renewal of Membership, and other documentary  
5 permits and requirements, and the issuance of other necessary  
6 authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

7 g. *Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)* for the processing and  
8 issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the  
9 issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be  
10 needed;

11 h. *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)* for the  
12 documentation/registration of workers, verification/certification of OFW  
13 records, processing and issuance of other documentary permits and  
14 requirements, including the issuance of other necessary  
15 authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

16 i. *Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)* for processing and issuance of civil  
17 registry documents, including the issuance of other necessary  
18 authentication/certification, if there any be needed; and

19 j. *Social Security System (SSS)* for the processing and issuance of other  
20 documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other  
21 necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

22 **Sec. 4. Manpower Requirements.** All government agencies in the  
23 Government Center shall be required to assign qualified personnel in these satellite

1 offices. The assigned personnel for each government agency must have no less than  
2 six (6) months of experience of work in their respective agencies, and shall oversee  
3 the day-to-day operations of the satellite offices and the conduct of the necessary  
4 coordination with their respective regional and central offices. The Provincial  
5 Government of Abra, upon the request of the concerned government agency, shall  
6 provide contractual workers to their satellite offices.

7 **Sec. 5. Office Facilities.** All government agencies in the Government Center  
8 shall be required to provide their satellite offices at least two (2) sets of computer  
9 units, with all the required accessories, including scanners and printers. For  
10 purposes of uniformity, the Provincial Government of Abra shall install/provide the  
11 necessary office tables, chairs, and the telephone and Internet facility to the  
12 Government Center.

13 **Sec. 6. Accessibility of the Government Center.** The Government Center  
14 shall be located in a location within the Municipality of La Paz in the Province of  
15 Abra that is strategically important and is easily accessible by the people.

16 **Sec. 7. Funding.** The funds for the establishment, development, and the day-to-  
17 day operations of the Government Center offices shall be provided in the annual  
18 budgets of the aforementioned national government agencies in the General  
19 Appropriations Act. In addition, the costs of general maintenance of these offices  
20 shall be provided by the Provincial Government of Abra.

21 **Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Heads and/or Directors  
22 of the agencies mentioned in Section 3 of this Act shall formulate and issue the  
23 necessary guidelines for the proper implementation of this Act.

1       **Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** Any law, decree, ordinance or administrative  
2       circular not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended, repealed or  
3       modified accordingly.

4       **Sec. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5       complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general  
6       circulation.

7       Approved,