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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1860

Introduced by Honorable Douglas Ra. Cagas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A drug rehabilitation center needs to be established in Davao del Sur.

The illegal drugs menace is now considered public enemy no. 1 all over the world and poses a grave threat to a country's national security. In our country, it has alarmingly penetrated almost all sectors and levels of society including the government, business, and even law enforcement agencies, and it may only take a little more time before the Philippines become another Colombia.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo speaking during the National Anti-Drug Summit at the Manila Hotel said that, "the battle against illegal drug was no less critical and no less immediate than the government's war against Abu Sayyaf banditry, communist insurgency, terrorism and organized crime. Illegal drugs are much more damaging in the long term because they gobble the very heart and hope of our country - the youth. Because of illegal drugs, many lives are lost or ruined. Families are broken, brains are ruined just to give to the gluttony of the few."

Several government agencies envisioned to lead the government's total war against dangerous drugs were created. Laws were passed to encourage the participation of the Local Government Units in both the prevention and control of the illegal menace. In short, our concern is how to eradicate or prevent the spread of illicit drug traffic in the country. We should not, however, forget that a drug dependent is not a criminal but a victim who is in need of medical and psychiatric treatment and still can become a useful member of society. The government should likewise direct its national programs to promote and sustain the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse, especially in the critical after-care and social reintegration stages. Bringing a person back to the state of being where he can successfully cope with the physical, psychological and social demands of family and community life is one way of helping a sick person become a useful and productive member of the community.

Davao del Sur is one of the provinces where there is a considerable number of drug dependents. Unfortunately, there is no easily accessible and efficient center medical facilities for the speedy recovery from the physical and mental trauma brought about by dangerous drugs. Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS
1st District, Davao del Sur

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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 1860

Introduced by Honorable Douglas Ra. Cagas

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN DAVAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. ***Creation. -*** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Health, a drug rehabilitation center in the province of Davao del Sur hereinafter referred to as the Center.

SECTION 2. ***Objectives and Functions***. - The Center shall have the following objectives and functions:

(a) To provide care, treatment and accommodation to persons residing in Davao del Sur found to drug dependents;

(b) To bring such drug dependent to a state where he is physicallty, psychologically and socially capable of coping with problems common to his peer group;

(c) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of and information on the prevention, care, treatment and control of drug addiction in Davao del Sur;

(d) To provide after-care, follow-up and social reintegration services to enable such drug dependent to adjust to family and community life after his release;

(e) To provide such drug dependent motivation to regain self-confidence, rediscover his working abilities and develop a sense of responsibility for himself;

(f) To encourage the formation of organizations and associations composed of parents, guardians and immediate relatives of drug dependents in order to arouse their awareness and enhance their participation in the care, treatment and rehabilitation of their relatives or wards found to be drug dependent patients within the province of Davao del Sur;

(g) To undertake continuous training of physicians, nurses, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific methods of prevention, care, treatment and rehabilitation of persons found to be drug dependents in Davao del Sur;

(h) To strengthen the emotional and spiritual make-up of such individual drug dependent by conducting regular guidance and counseling sessions as well as interdenominational church services.

SECTION 3. ***Site of the Center.*** - The Secretary of Health in coordination with the Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall, taking into consideration the accessibility of the Center to its clientele, determine the location thereof.

SECTION 4. ***Organization.*** - The Center shall be headed by a provincial Director to be assisted by two (2) Provincial Deputy Directors who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health and vested with powers generally exercised by a Chief and Assistant Chiefs, respectively, of a government hospital.

No person shall be appointed Provincial Director or Provincial Deputy Director unless he posses the following qualifications:

(a) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
(b) A physician of good repute;
(c) At least five (5) years experience in the care, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents.

SECTION 5. ***Personnel and Staff***. - The Provincial Director shall appoint such other personnel and staff as may be necessary for the effective operation of the Center subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. ***Five-Year Development Plan.*** - The Center, through its Provincial Director, shall be authorized to embark on a Five-Year Development Plan in the fulfillment of the following:

1. To establish additional building facilities equipped with new and modern equipment to serve and cater to drug dependents of the province;

2. To initiate plans for the development of income generating programs for the ultimate purpose of generating resources to provide charity services;

3. To provide hospital pharmacy services, free dispensaries and health stations; and

4. To provide educational facilities for interns and graduate and undergraduate students of medicine.

SECTION 7. ***Government Assistance to the Center.*** - The Secretary of Health is hereby authorized to call upon any department, bureau, agency or instrumentality of the government for such assistance as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act.

SECTION 8. ***Rules and Regulations.*** - the Provincial Director of the Center is hereby authorized, with the approval of the Secretary of Health, to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to secure an effective administration of the Center and the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. ***Appropriations.*** - The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. ***Effectivity***. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,