

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3442



Introduced by **HON. REMEDIOS "MATIN" L. PETILLA** 1st District, Leyte ;**HON. EDUARDO K. VELOSO** 3RD District, Leyte ; **HON. CARMEN L. CARI** 5TH District , Leyte ; **HON. ROGER G. MERCADO** Lone District, Southern Leyte; **HON. CATALINO V. FIGUEROA** 2nd District, Western Samar; **HON. GERARDO J. ESPINA** Lone District , Biliran; **HON. MARCELINO C. LIBANAN** Lone District, Eastern Samar; **HON. REYNALDO S. UY** 1st District, Western Samar; **HON. ROMUALDO T. VICENCIO** 2nd District , Northern Samar.; **HON. FLORENCIO GABRIEL NOEL**, AN WARAY Party List.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a national drug rehabilitation center in Region VIII to be known as "SALAG".

Drug addiction refers to the compulsive and uncontrolled use of habit-forming drugs beyond the period of medical need or under conditions harmful to society.

Addiction to prohibited drugs has now become one of the formidable threats to the country's socio-economic progress, considering that it is mostly the youth who fall prey to this social menace. Drug addiction robs the users of their strength, saps their vitality, dulls their senses, destroys their intellect, and ensnares their whole being. This problem has spread even to the provinces, like a scourge that plagues the country.

At present, drug rehabilitation centers around the country could barely contain the huge number of drug dependents needing medical attention. An alarming number of drug dependents have yet to receive medication and treatment.

The government has exerted earnest efforts to contain the problem by coming up with measures to prevent and curb illicit drug trafficking. However, despite the laudable and concrete programs to address the

problem, there is a greater need for government to direct its programs to the promotion and sustenance of the treatment and rehabilitation of the victims of drug-abuse, especially in the critical after-care and social reintegration stages. Bringing an individual back to a state of well being where he can once again live a normal, drug free life would be the greatest goal.

This proposed bill, if realized especially in Region VIII, will help redeem the many lives destroyed by drug dependence that has continued to imperil many people- young and old alike. The establishment of "SALAG", a Waray dialect for birds' nesting abode, shall be a realization of a dream long sought by the people of Region VIII in rising to the challenges of this very alarming social menace. As of the present, no drug treatment and rehabilitation center either private or public is existing in Region VIII.

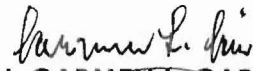
In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. REMEDIOS "MATIN" L. PETILLA
1st District, Leyte



HON. EDUARDO K. VELOSO
3rd District, Leyte



HON. CARMEN L. CARI
5th District, Leyte

HON. ROGER G. MERCADO
Lone District, Southern Leyte.



HON. CATALINO V. FIGUEROA
2nd District, Western Samar



HON. GERARDO J. ESPINA
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HON. MARCELINO C. LIBANAN
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HON. REYNALDO S. UY
1st District, Western Samar

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2nd District, Northern Samar



HON. FLORENCIO GABRIEL NOEL
An Waray Party List Representative

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN
REGION VIII 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, in Region VIII, a drug rehabilitation center to be known as "SALAG", under the supervision of the Dangerous Drugs Board.

SEC. 2. *Objectives and Functions.* – The Center shall have the following objectives and functions:

(a) To provide care, treatment and accommodation to persons found to be drug dependents;

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

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

(e) To provide each drug dependent the motivation to regain self-confidence, rediscover his 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;

(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;

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

SEC. 3. *Organization.* – The Center shall be headed by a Director to be assisted by two (2) Deputy Directors who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board and vested with powers generally exercised by a Chief and Assistant Chiefs, respectively, of a government hospital.

No person shall be appointed Director or Deputy Director unless he possesses 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.

SEC. 4. *Personnel and Staff.* – The Director shall appoint such other personnel and staff as may be necessary for the effective operation of the Center subject to existing laws and rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. *Five-Year Development Plan.* – The Center, through its Director, shall be authorized to embark on a Five-Year Development Plan in the fulfillment of the following:

1. To establish additional building facility equipped with new and modern equipment to serve and cater not only to drug dependents from Region VIII but from other neighboring regions as well;

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

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

SEC. 6. *Government Assistance to the Center.* – The Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board, in coordination with 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.

SEC. 7. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Director of the Center is hereby authorized, with the approval of the Chairman of the Dangerous Drug Board, 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.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for

the Dangerous Drugs Board 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.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,