

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4470**



Introduced by **Honorable Gil P. Acosta, Honorable Frederick F. Abueg, and
Honorable Franz Josef George E. Alvarez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to locate the MIMAROPA Regional Center in the City of Puerto Princesa. Republic Act 10867 officially institutionalized MIMAROPA as a separate and distinct region of the country.

The City of Puerto Princesa and the Province of Palawan are two local government units that forms part of the five provinces – two cities regional aggroupation.

Palawan has become a veritable cynosure of all eyes, not only in the Philippines, but also in the international scene as the result of series of positive media publications especially in the tourism and travel industry.

Concomitant with this enviable circumstances is the burgeoning establishment and development of commercial and industrial activities in Palawan that add corollary pressures and requirements not only in the areas of provincial and city governance but within the sphere of the MIMAROPA Regional governmental transactions.

Among the five provinces comprising the MIMAROPA Region, Palawan had the biggest population in 2015 with 1,104,000 inhabitants; 255,000 of which are Puerto Princesa residents.

A report of the Philippine Statistics Authority reveals that Puerto Princesa City posted as high as 2.62% in terms of population growth rate. Palawan Province on the other hand was the fastest growing province in the region with an average annual population growth rate (PGR) of 1.84 percent during the period 2010 to 2015. It was followed by Occidental Mindoro (1.40 percent), Oriental Mindoro (1.38 percent), and Romblon (0.59 percent). Marinduque posted the lowest provincial PGR of 0.55 percent.

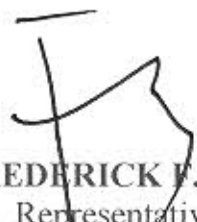
In areas of tourism and trade, Palawan tops the regional and national destinations, prompting the DOTr to expand the Puerto Princesa City Airport to international status as a gateway to 1,700 islands of the province. In MIMAROPA Region, only Palawan has a membership in the International aggroupation of trading partners in the ASEAN Region. The BIMP-EAGA bolsters Palawan's unique position in the Philippines and in MIMAROPA as a venue for Government institutional establishment and advancement of support mechanisms for regional and national development.

Given the strategic importance, logistical resources and geographical location of the Province of Palawan and the City of Puerto Princesa, it is thus appropriate to locate the MIMAROPA Regional Government Center in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan for the advantageous convenience and comfort of the Region IV-B constituencies.

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



GIL P. ACOSTA
Representative
3rd District of Palawan



FREDERICK F. ABUEG
Representative
2nd District of Palawan



FRANZ JOSEF GEORGE E. ALVAREZ
Representative
1st District of Palawan

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4470**

Introduced by **Honorable Gil P. Acosta, Honorable Frederick F. Abueg, and
Honorable Franz Josef George E. Alvarez**

1 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MIMAROPA REGIONAL**
2 **GOVERNMENT CENTER IN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY PROVINCE**
3 **OF PALAWAN**

4
5 Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
6 Philippines in Congress assembled:

7
8 **SECTION 1. MIMAROPA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER.**

9 – The City of Puerto Princesa in the Province of Palawan is hereby designated
10 as the Regional Government Center of MIMAROPA which was created under
11 RA 10879, and composed of the provinces of Mindoro Oriental and Occidental,
12 Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan and the Cities of Calapan and Puerto Princesa.

13
14 **SECTION 2. PRINCIPAL OFFICE.** – There is hereby apportioned
15 three hundred (300) hectares of lot for MIMAROPA Regional Center to be
16 carved out of the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm as per Executive Order no. 67
17 Series of 1912. The DENR in coordination with the DOJ shall cause such
18 delineation.

20 **SECTION 3. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.** – The Regional Development
21 Council of MIMAROPA, in coordination with the City of Puerto Princesa,
22 national government agencies and instrumentalities and the private sector, shall
23 formulate an over-all developmental program and strategic plan in order to
24 redefine the City of Puerto Princesa as the designated site for the regional
25 center.

26
27 **SECTION 4. RELOCATION OF REGIONAL OFFICES.** – All the
28 regional offices in MIMAROPA shall be relocated to the City of Puerto
29 Princesa, starting with the establishment of the satellite offices in the area
30 within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, and their full transfer
31 within eighteen (18) months thereafter. The heads of departments, agencies,
32 bureaus, government owned-and-controlled corporations and government
33 financial institutions shall support the regional officers in adopting and
34 implementing their respective relocation plans, including measures that will
35 address the concerns of the employees affected by the transfer.

36
37 **SECTION 5. FUNDING SOURCE.** – The amount of fifty (50) million
38 pesos necessary for the site development, maintenance and administration of the
39 regional center shall be made available in the next budget year immediately
40 upon approval of this Act.

41
42 **SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All laws, decrees, orders,
43 rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby
44 repealed or amended accordingly.

45
46 **SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
47 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national
48 newspapers of general circulation.

49
50 Approved,