

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*Second Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 7106**



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INTRODUCED BY **REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH STO. NIÑO B. BERNOS**

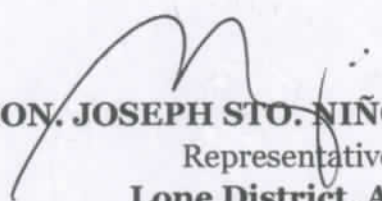
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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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 are in need of 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 Service Center in Abra where relevant government offices are all located for the convenience of both the government agencies and the people. This Government Service 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.

  
**HON. JOSEPH STO. NIÑO B. BERNOS**  
Representative  
**Lone District, Abra**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT SERVICE CENTER (GSC) HOUSING**  
**SATELLITE OFFICES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF BANGUED IN THE PROVINCE OF ABRA**

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

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

**Sec. 2. *Establishment of a Government Service Center in Abra.*** There shall be established a Government Service Center (GSC) in the Province of Abra that shall house satellite offices of various national government agencies involved in the processing and issuance of common documentary requirements for whatever legitimate purpose or activity, as needed by the people.

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

- a. *Commission on Higher Education (CHED)* for verification and authentication of school credentials, and for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- b. *Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)* for all passport services and other consular concerns, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- c. *Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)* for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- d. *Land Transportation Office (LTO)* for the processing of documentations related to the registration of vehicles and to the issuance of driver's licenses, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- e. *National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)* for the processing and issuance of an NBI clearance, and other documentary permits and requirements, and the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- f. *Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)* for the processing of OWWA membership/Renewal of Membership, and other documentary permits and requirements, and the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- g. *Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)* for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the

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

- h. *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)* for the documentation/registration of workers, verification/certification of OFW records, processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- i. *Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)* for processing and issuance of civil registry documents, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed; and
- j. *Social Security System (SSS)* for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

**Sec. 4. Manpower Requirements.** All government agencies in the GSC shall be required to assign qualified personnel in these satellite offices. The assigned personnel for each government agency must have no less than six (6) months of experience of work in their respective agencies, and shall oversee the day-to-day operations of the satellite offices and the conduct of the necessary coordination with their respective regional and central offices. The Provincial Government of Abra, upon the request of the concerned government agency, shall contractual workers to their satellite offices.

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

**Sec. 6. Accessibility of the GSC.** The GSC shall be located in a place within the Municipality of Bangued in the Province of Abra that is strategically important and is easily accessible by the people.

**Sec. 7. *Funding.*** The funds for the establishment, development, and the day-to-day operations of the GSC offices shall be provided for in the annual General Appropriations Act; however, the maintenance of these offices shall be on the account of the Provincial Government of Abra.

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

**Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Justice, in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, and Department of Information and Communications Technology, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

**Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** Any law, decree, ordinance or administrative circular not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.