

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7322**



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI Section 10 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, "The State shall provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of information into, out of, and across the country, in accordance with a policy that respects the freedom of speech and of the press."

The Presidential Communication Operations Office ("PCOO") is the "lead communications arm of the Government and a vehicle of understanding for a well-informed and enlightened citizenry, proud of its heritage and attuned to global realities."¹ Its missions include serving as the primary vehicle for consciousness-raising, constituency-building, and social mobilization in support of the policies, programs, and projects of the Presidency as well as serving as a tool for informing, educating, enlightening the citizenry about matters of national importance for inspiring the citizenry to deepen their civic engagement.²

However, the PCOO has been struggling to attain its missions. This struggle is partly due to the lack of presence in other parts of the country. As it stands today, the PCOO only has a one office and this office is tasked to disseminate government programs to the country's 7,107 islands. Certainly, a communications office that has no arms to spread information is destined to fail. Thus, each government agency spends a lot of money in information campaigns when it could have very well been the function and expertise of the PCOO.

This bill seeks to establish regional and provincial satellite offices for the PCOO. By creating satellite offices, government agencies no longer need to spend on information campaigns, as all information that needs to be disseminated to the public shall be streamlined and processed by the satellite offices. With this streamlined system, all communications will be transmitted to the public in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Hence, the passage of this law is urgently sought.


SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

¹ See <https://pcoo.gov.ph/about/>

² Ibid.

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**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH SATELLITE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE, ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM
THEREFOR, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as "Presidential Communications Operations Satellite Offices Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of information into, out of, and across the country, in accordance with a policy that respects the freedom of speech and of the press.

Sec. 3. Establishment of Satellite Offices - It shall be established in every region and province a Presidential Communications Operations ("PCOO") Satellite Office.

These PCOO satellite offices shall be under the control and supervision of the PCOO. All government agencies including government owned and/or controlled corporations shall course thru their information campaigns with the PCOO satellite offices and shall be prohibited from conducting their own campaigns without the prior written approval of the PCOO.

Sec. 4. Implementing Agency. - The Office of the President shall ensure the implementation and enforcement of this Act.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Office of the President shall have the power to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within one (1) year from the approval hereof.

Sec. 6. Separability Clause. If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. *Appropriation.* The funds necessary for the establishment of the satellite offices shall be sourced from the General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.