

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8454



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has a reputation of being an advocate of human rights not only within the Asian region, but also across the world. It is one of the original signatories of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and has signed, ratified, and acceded to at least twenty-three (23) international covenants and treaties with respect to such rights. Likewise, the Constitution expressly provides that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights.

However, this reputation, since the advent of the present administration, has been tainted with the blood of those who perished under the inhumanity of the war on drugs. Moreover, rampant poverty, which remains largely unabated up to this day, is to be considered an affront to the human right to a decent life; food and shelter; social security; and education. These realities therefore necessitate that we capacitate our people to be better able to address the human rights injustices committed against them by bringing them closer to the authorities specially equipped to assist in such cases.

Thus, as faithful observance of this representation's commitment in preserving the sanctity and integrity of human rights in the country, this representation aims to establish human rights resource centers established throughout the country to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights in the implementation of the criminal justice system, in the conduct of local governance and local law enforcement.

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



Rep. Gary C. Alejano

1 and coordinate in ensuring the effective operation of the HR Resource Centers including, but not
2 limited to, the mobilization of resources and the provision of technical support.

3 At the operational level, the HR Resource Centers shall be headed by a volunteer lawyer
4 from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines with support staff composed of volunteers from students
5 of law schools who are rendering paralegal services as part of their curriculum requirements,
6 people's organizations and non-government organizations (POs and NGOs, respectively) with
7 credibility in the locality and independent of the local government.

8 **SEC. 4. Functions of the HR Resource Centers.**—The HR Resource Centers shall have the
9 following functions:

10 a. Set up a library of international covenants and treaties to which the Philippines is a
11 signatory, has acceded to and/or has ratified;

12 b. Provide the necessary resource persons, literary and other educational materials to
13 persons or group of persons who advocate and work for a continuing program of education
14 that enhances respect for the primacy of human rights;

15 c. Monitor compliance with international treaty obligations and national legislation
16 on human rights for the purpose of ensuring the proper enforcement of laws and observance of
17 international obligations at the local level;

18 d. Coordinate with various government agencies involved in the promotion and
19 protection of various aspects of human rights, as well as with the Presidential Committee on
20 Human Rights;

21 e. Coordinate with barangay, municipal, and provincial human rights officers, desks
22 or committees, as the case may be, and with the Regional Office of the CHR on issues
23 arising from violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people,
24 particularly those of women and children, for purposes of referring or endorsing the same
25 through an appropriate mechanism to the proper government agencies for appropriate action
26 and immediate resolution;

27 f. Take an active part in efforts aimed at promoting peace and development in the
28 area and serve as the convergence point for these efforts at the local level;

1 g. Recommend the enactment of necessary local legislation that will protect and
2 promote human rights in the province; and

3 h. Participate in the development planning and budgeting process of the local
4 government unit concerned using the principles of rights-based development wherein
5 development plans for the locality come from the citizens who are targeted to be the direct
6 beneficiaries of the plans rather than the government imposing the plans on the citizens.

7 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***—The CHR, in consultation, coordination,
8 and collaboration with the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice, the AFP, the PNP, the
9 Integrated Bar of the Philippines and human rights NGOs and POs duly recognized and accredited
10 by the Government, shall prepare the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
11 provisions of this Act.

12 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.***—All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof
13 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14 **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.***—If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the other parts not otherwise affected shall remain in full effect and force.

16 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.***—This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the
17 Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,