

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7474



Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all. Further, pursuant to Executive Order No. 126, s. 1987, it shall be the primary responsibility of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) the promotion of gainful employment opportunities and the optimization of the development and utilization of the country's manpower resources, the advancement of workers' welfare by providing for just and humane working conditions and terms of employment, and the maintenance of industrial peace by promoting harmonious, equitable, and stable employment relations that assure equal protection for the rights of all concerned parties.

According to the latest survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) in the third quarter of 2019, around 21.5 percent or an estimated 10 million adult Filipinos are unemployed. This is an increase from the data gathered in 2018. Particularly in Caraga Region, employment rate fell by 0.8 percentage point, from 95.9 percent in the third quarter of 2018 to 95.1 percent in the third quarter of 2019. This resulted in the rise of unemployment rate to 4.9 percent during the period.¹

The Department has developed various programs to promote gainful employment and curb the unemployment rate. In Dinagat Islands, it has been proposed in the discussion with the national line agencies that DOLE will provide sustainable livelihood assistance or entrepreneurship to the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable workers and will also provide short term wage employment assistance to displaced or underemployed workers in the informal sectors who lost their livelihood due to calamities. However laudable these projects are, there is still a stark difficulty tracking their progress and execution, not to mention that there are still gaps in the implementation of active labor market programs that will help workers access better jobs and lack of provincial programs that will strengthen the demand for labor, especially in a geographically challenged

¹ http://nro13.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/QRES_3Q_2019-FINAL.pdf

province like Dinagat Islands. More so, the current pandemic makes delivery of government assistance even arduous for the remote province of Dinagat which in turn uncorked a plethora of employment issues.

In line with the preceding, this bill proposes the establishment of a Provincial Office of the Department of Labor and Employment in the Province of Dinagat Islands. This will certainly bolster the economy as it will easily identify the key labor market challenges that the province face, outline potential solutions to address these challenges, and help to implement appropriate strategies for better employment.

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



ALAN B. ECLEO

Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE,
PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of Provincial Office of the Department of Labor and Employment in the Dinagat Islands.* – There shall be established, under the direct supervision of the Department of Labor and Employment, a Provincial Office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the Municipality of San Jose, Province of Dinagat Islands, to be known as the DOLE Dinagat Islands Provincial Office which shall promote gainful employment opportunities, develop human resources, protect workers and promote their welfare, and maintain industrial peace.

SEC. 2. *Transfer of Records and Assets.* – The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment shall transfer the records, property, equipment, supplies, and materials pertaining to the jurisdiction and administration of the said DOLE Dinagat Islands Provincial Office in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Labor and Employment shall include in the department's program the operationalization of the DOLE Dinagat Islands Provincial Office, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Labor and Employment, and thereafter, the succeeding funding shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Labor and Employment shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation

Approved,