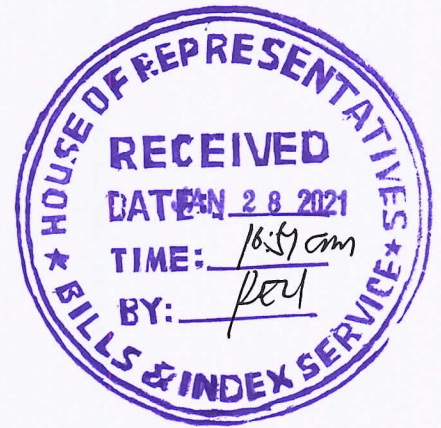


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8563



Introduced by MARINO Party-list Representatives

SANDRO L. GONZALEZ
and **MACNELL M. LUSOTAN**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME INDUSTRY
AUTHORITY (MARINA) REGIONAL OFFICE IN ILAGAN CITY, PROVINCE OF
ISABELA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Composed of five (5) provinces – Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino, the Administrative Region of Cagayan Valley (Region II) is home to a number of indispensable industries including the production of agricultural products such as rice, corn, and tobacco, livestock (cattle, hog, carabao) and poultry; and furniture making for export of its rattan and other indigenous materials. Cagayan Valley is the second largest Philippine administrative region by land area, next only to the Southwestern Tagalog Region.

Other than its acclaimed title as the “Tilapia Capital of the Philippines”, the region is home to a burgeoning fishing industry, particularly along the coasts of Cagayan, Isabela, Batanes, and the Magat Dam. The mighty Rio Grande de Cagayan runs through the provinces on the region with the Chico, Magat, and Ilagan Rivers as its main tributaries.

Home to 3,451,410 residents recorded by the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2015, Cagayan Valley hosts two (2) major ports, namely Port Irene in Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Free Port (CSEZFP) and Port of Aparri. It has also been identified as location for additional major Roll-On Roll-Off (RoRo) routes through the Kalayaan Wharf and San Vicente Port in Cagayan and Maconacon Port in Isabela. It also contributes to the increasing number of highly competent Filipino seafarers through its accredited maritime higher education institutions (MHEIs).

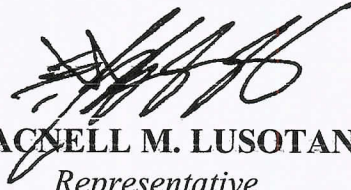
The establishment of an additional regional office to provide maritime-related services is an important step toward ensuring access to national government support to spur socio-economic development in Cagayan Valley in order to keep up with the rest of Northern Luzon.

It is for these reasons that we enjoin our colleagues in the House to support the passage of this bill.



SANDRO L. GONZALEZ

Representative
MARINO Party-list



MACNELL M. LUSOTAN

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

Section 1. *Creation of Regional Office* – There shall be established under the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) a Regional Office in the City of Ilagan, Province of Isabela.

Section 2. *Functions* – The Regional Office in Ilagan City shall provide frontline services of the MARINA, including, but not limited to, the processing and issuance of certificates of competency, endorsement, proficiency and documentary evidence required of seafarers; and processing and issuance of certificates of ship safety, public convenience, registration and documentary requirements of ships, in the exercise of its powers and functions under existing laws, orders, rules and regulations.

Section 3. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the savings or current year's appropriations of the MARINA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The MARINA shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity hereof. In the formulation of such rules and regulations, the MARINA shall ensure that the processes and procedures in providing frontline services shall be the most efficient and convenient way for its stakeholders including, but not limited to, computerization and automation, and elimination of redundant fees and charges.

Section 5. *Separability Clause* – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections, or provisions hereof not affected by such declaration shall remain in force and in effect.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause* – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 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,