

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9254

Introduced by Representative Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL
SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person, guarantee full respect for human rights, and to provide an improved quality of life for all especially the elderly through programs that protect and promote their right to health and safety.

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly affected the lives of every Filipino in all walks of life, regardless of status, gender or age. It has further exposed and exacerbated the glaring need to care for the elderly who has been trapped, deprived of income sources, health care, and inaccessibility to essential needs. Even more so to those elderly who became homeless, have been neglected, abandoned or abused.

This representation believes in the dignity of human life and utmost respect to the elderly, and thus recognizes the need to establish the Davao Del Sur Home for the Elderly.

It is for the foregoing reason that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MERCEDES “DIDI” C. CAGAS

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment.* – There shall be established the Davao Del Sur Home for the Elderly in the Province of Davao Del Sur to provide free living accommodations, food and clothing, medical and health care, recreational and social interaction activities to homeless, abandoned, neglected, abused, or indigent senior citizens in the Province of Davao Del Sur. The Home for the Elderly shall be established, operated and maintained by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the Department of Health and the Provincial Government of Davao Del Sur.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be construed to mean as follows:

- (a) Elderly – refers to any person aged sixty (60) years old and above;
- (b) Abandoned Senior Citizen – refers to a senior citizen who has been deserted, permanently or temporarily, by his relatives or persons who have general or legal responsibility over the senior, and/or from whom all basic care has been withdrawn, whether willfully or not;
- (c) Indigent Senior Citizens – refers to those persons who are either frail, sickly, suffering from any disability, and has no other means to support his/her basic needs as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- (d) Homeless Senior Citizen – refers to a senior citizen who lacks a fixed, regular residence, or whose current residence is unfit for human habitation or lacks resources to obtain proper housing;

- (e) Long-term Care – refers to a sustained provision of comprehensive programs and services to Senior Citizens with the view of enabling them to have dignified, healthy and secured lives;

SEC. 3. *Functions of the Davao Del Sur Home for the Elderly.* – The proposed home for the elderly shall provide the homeless, abandoned, neglected, abused, or indigent senior citizens in the Province of Davao Del Sur with the following care and services, among others:

- (a) Comfortable living quarters;
- (b) Adequate food and clothing;
- (c) Medical consultation and treatment;
- (d) Health care;
- (e) Occupational opportunities;
- (f) Recreational and social interaction activities;
- (g) Counselling;
- (h) Case conference;
- (i) Family dialogue;
- (j) Outreach to existing family for reintegration;
- (k) Literacy education;
- (l) Productivity development; and
- (m) Religious, cultural and vocational activities.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the Department of Health and the Provincial Government of Davao Del Sur shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,