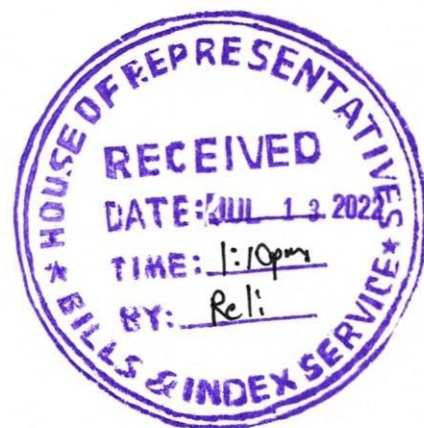


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1871



INTRODUCED BY REP. CHING BERNOS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT CENTER FOR SATELLITE OFFICES OF
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA
PAZ, PROVINCE OF ABRA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In order to be employed for a job that would help support the demands of daily life, one would be required to submit government documents as supplementary papers to their employment. Such is the same for the enrollment in schools and universities to obtain higher education. However, the Province of Abra has always faced the issue of distance to government centers which would provide quick solutions for their documentary requirements for work, school, or personal use. Abreños would have to travel to nearby provinces such as Benguet and La Union to reach the nearest government offices located in Baguio City and San Fernando City. In some cases, Abreños are required to travel to as far as Metro Manila, just to be able to have access to their needed government-issued documents.

The establishment of a Government Center in the Province of Abra is essential for the lives of Abreños and it could also be beneficial for the people from adjacent provinces such as Apayao and Kalinga. The clustering of government offices in one place permits access to all the agencies without the need to travel far should the people need to process all of their documents at once. Moreover, having the Government Center will enable the creation of additional jobs as the satellite offices of the government agencies will be in need of qualified personnel to perform the necessary government functions in these offices.

In the light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


REP. CHING B. BERNOS
Lone District, Abra

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

SECTION 1. Policy Objective. It shall be the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of Filipinos by streamlining the delivery of government services and providing access to these basic services, especially to regions that are geographically distant from regional urban centers where most government offices are located and government-issued documents are processed. To this end, the State shall endeavor to empower communities with access to these basic government services and to free the People from the unnecessary burdens stemming from bureaucratic inefficiency.

Sec. 2. Establishment of a Government Center in Abra. There shall be established a Government Center in the Province of Abra that shall house

satellite offices of various national government agencies involved in the processing and issuance of common documentary requirements for whatever legitimate purpose or activity, as needed by the people.

Sec. 3. *Satellite Offices Housed in the Government Center.* The satellite offices of government agencies housed in the Government Center shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- a. *Commission on Higher Education (CHED)* for verification and authentication of school credentials, and for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- b. *Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)* for all passport services and other consular concerns, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- c. *Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)* for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- d. *Land Transportation Office (LTO)* for the processing of documentations related to the registration of vehicles and to the issuance of driver's licenses, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

- e. *National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)* for the processing and issuance of an NBI clearance, and other documentary permits and requirements, and the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- f. *Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)* for the processing of OWWA membership/Renewal of Membership, and other documentary permits and requirements, and the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- g. *Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)* for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- h. *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)* for the documentation/registration of workers, verification/certification of OFW records, processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;
- i. *Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)* for processing and issuance of civil registry documents, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed; and

- j. *Social Security System (SSS)* for the processing and issuance of other documentary permits and requirements, including the issuance of other necessary authentication/certification, if there any be needed;

Sec. 4. *Manpower Requirements.* All government agencies in the Government Center shall be required to assign qualified personnel in these satellite offices. The assigned personnel for each government agency must have no less than six (6) months of experience of work in their respective agencies, and shall oversee the day-to-day operations of the satellite offices and the conduct of the necessary coordination with their respective regional and central offices. The Provincial Government of Abra, upon the request of the concerned government agency, shall provide contractual workers to their satellite offices.

Sec. 5. *Office Facilities.* All government agencies in the Government Center shall be required to provide their satellite offices at least two (2) sets of computer units, with all the required accessories, including scanners and printers. For purposes of uniformity, the Provincial Government of Abra shall install/provide the necessary office tables, chairs, and the telephone and Internet facility to the Government Center.

Sec. 6. *Accessibility of the Government Center.* The Government Center shall be located in a location within the Municipality of La Paz in the Province of Abra that is strategically important and is easily accessible by the people.

Sec. 7. *Funding.* The funds for the establishment, development, and the day-to-day operations of the Government Center offices shall be provided in the annual budgets of the aforementioned national government agencies in the General Appropriations Act. In addition, the costs of general maintenance of these offices shall be provided by the Provincial Government of Abra.

Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Heads and/or Directors of the agencies mentioned in Section 3 of this Act shall formulate and issue the necessary guidelines for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, decree, ordinance or administrative circular not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,