

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 Quezon City, Metro Manila
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
 First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3899



Introduced by **Representative CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a regular Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Consular Office to be located in the Municipality of Kalibo, Province of Aklan.

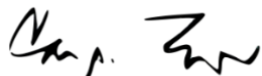
The role of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) cannot be emphasized enough. From our experience in the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, the Philippine state economy had been kept afloat because of the significant inflow of economic remittances provided for by our OFWs.

According to the 2020 estimate of the Philippine Statistics Authority, Western Visayas contributes a 9.7% of the country's OFW chunk. It comes next after CALABARZON (18.5%) and Central Luzon (11.8%) being the first in the lead. However, it seems that despite the significant number, there are only two established DFA Consular offices in the Western Visayas Region —one in Iloilo City, Iloilo and another in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

Because of the limited number of DFA consular offices available in the region, it has been difficult for the residents from adjacent provinces, such as those from my home province in Aklan, to avail consular services that of the DFA. Consular services including issuance of passports, apostille certification, Philippine visa endorsement, and other related services are often flocked for by Aklanons for travel and identification purposes. In effect, thousands of our constituents would need to spend so much time and travel long distances to avail them.

To narrow this particular gap, it is high time that we appropriately establish a DFA office in the Province of Aklan. It would significantly improve public service delivery and efficiency not only in our province, but also in our region.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ENGR. CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OFFICE (DFA) CONSULAR OFFICE IN AKLAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "Establishment of Regular
2 Department of Foreign Affairs' Consular Office in the Province of Aklan, particularly in
3 Kalibo, Aklan".
4

5 **Sec 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is the policy of the State to promote social justice
6 in all phases of development. Social justice includes social opportunity and that this
7 opportunity be made available to all citizens of the Philippines.
8

9 **Sec 3. Establishment of the Consular Office.** — There shall be established a regular
10 Department of Foreign Affairs' Consular Office in the Province of Aklan, particularly in
11 Kalibo, Aklan.
12

13 **Sec 4. Nature of the Consular Office.** — The consular office sought to be
14 established through this bill is a regular office and not a satellite office.
15

16 **Sec 5. Functions.** — The regular consular office sought to be established shall
17 perform functions the same as those which are being performed by the existing regular
18 consular offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs.
19

20 **Sec 6. Appropriations.** — Funding for this Act shall be included in the General
21 Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment and so forth.

1 **Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.*** — If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected
3 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4
5 **Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation and
6 administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or
7 modified accordingly.

8
9 **Sec. 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
10 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,