

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4514



Introduced by Rep. LORETO B. ACHARON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On June 16, 1948, Republic Act No. 289 was enacted to provide for the construction of a national pantheon for presidents of the Philippines, national heroes, and patriots of the country. This law institutionalized the existence of Republic Memorial Cemetery established in May 1947 at Fort McKinley, a military reservation that is Fort Bonifacio today.

Republic Memorial Cemetery was rededicated and renamed as "Libingan ng mga Bayani" on October 27, 1954, by the late President Ramon Magsaysay and thereafter on May 28, 1967, then President Ferdinand E. Marcos further reinforced and emphasized its importance through the issuance of Proclamation No. 208 to reserve an area of 142 hectares exclusively for national shrine purposes, excluding such portions of land of the public domain from the operation of Presidential Proclamation No. 423 dated July 12, 1957.

On April 9, 1986, the late President Corazon C. Aquino thru the AFP Chief of Staff caused the issuance of Armed Forces Regulations No. G 161-373 which established the internment policy for the burial of other personalities at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani (LMNB), such policy strengthened further by Executive Order No. 131 issued on October 26, 1993, by the late President Fidel V. Ramos.

These policy issuances and directives that emanated from succeeding administrations resulted to the overcrowding of the LMNB site such that the Philippine Army Support Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines thru its Grave Service Unit - the administrators of the LMNB - began to explore the possibility of establishing annexes in other areas in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

Upon the initiative of the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), a 5-year development plan for the cemetery is in the pipeline with the goal of transforming the LNMB into a world-class national cemetery with a historical theme park and a memorial shrine.

Notwithstanding such plans, the issue of overcrowding remains a lingering concern and of utmost priority, such that the establishment of LNMB annexes in other parts of the country can no longer be delayed.

The State should honor their memories by allowing families, relatives, friends and “kababayans” to visit and pay tribute to these esteemed, distinguished, and honorable individuals who not just gave their time, talents, skills; shed sweat and tears; but most importantly sacrificed their lives in the service of their fellow Filipinos and in the name of freedom, liberty, and democracy.

This bill therefore seeks the establishment of a Libingan ng mga Bayani Annex in other parts of Luzon, in the Visayas and Mindanao.

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



LORETO B. ACHARON

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4514

Introduced by Rep. LORETO B. ACHARON

AN
ACT ESTABLISHING LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI (LNMB) ANNEXES IN LUZON, VISAYAS
AND MINDANAO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Libingan ng mga Bayani Annexes in other parts of Luzon, in the Visayas and in Mindanao are hereby established.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND) shall immediately include in the department's program the operationalization of the Libingan ng mga Bayani Annexes, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Philippine Army Support Command – Grave Services Unit.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the completion and continued operations of the LNMB Annexes shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the DND shall issue such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette, or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.