



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6405



Introduced by Representative Khymer Adan T. Olaso

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On October 12, 1990, then President Corazon C. Aquino issued Executive Order No. 429, "Providing for the Reorganization of the Administrative Regions in Mindanao, and for other purposes." It provides that the City of Pagadian shall serve as the regional center while the city of Zamboanga shall remain the commercial and industrial center. This EO was a result of the enactment of RA No. 6734 which provided for the creation of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The reorganization of the administrative regions in Mindanao was done "taking into consideration the formation of the ARMM"¹.

As a result of such EO, Region 9 was composed of the following provinces and cities:

Provinces:

- a. Zamboanga del Norte
- b. Zamboanga del Sur
- c. Basilan
- d. Misamis Occidental
- e. Lanao del Norte

Cities:

- a. Zamboanga
- b. Pagadian
- c. Dipolog
- d. Dapitan
- e. Oroquieta
- f. Tangub
- g. Ozamis
- h. Iligan
- i. Marawi

¹ E.O. No. 429, s. 1990 issued by President Corazon C. Aquino. 12 October 1990.

While Sulu and Tawi-Tawi Provinces were no longer with Western Mindanao, Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental initially joined it, giving practical reasons to relocate the regional seat to make it closer to constituent localities while also dispersing economic opportunities. Both provinces eventually opted out of Region 9.

Thus, on September 19, 2001, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 36 which provided for the “Reorganization of the Administrative Regions in Mindano and for other Purposes. In the said EO, the composition of Region IX was reduced in view of the inclusion of the Province of Basilan and the City of Marawi in the ARMM”² and only included the following provinces and cities:

Provinces:

- a. Zamboanga del Norte
- b. Zamboanga del Sur
- c. Zamboanga Sibugay

Cities:

- a. Zamboanga
- b. Dipolog
- c. Dapitan
- d. Isabela
- e. Pagadian

On November 12, 2004, the Executive Secretary of President Arroyo issued Memorandum Circular No. 75 directing the “Transfer of Regional Offices of All Departments and Agencies from Zamboanga City to Pagadian City Pursuant to Executive Order No. 429 Series of 1990.”³ In the said MC, it further provided that the “Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Department of Tourism (DOT) shall remain in Zamboanga City, the commercial and industrial center.”⁴

Eventually, on December 22, 2010, President Benigno C. Aquino III, through MC 11, suspended the transfer of government agencies in Region IX from Zamboanga to Pagadian City.

However, Memorandum Circular (MC) 78 of President Rodrigo Duterte lifted the moratorium on the transfer of the remaining regional government offices from Zamboanga City to Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur.

The huge funding requirement to operationalize the transfer of the remaining regional offices to Pagadian City will not only take its toll on the

² Executive Order No. 36, s. 2001 issued by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. 19 September 2001.

³ Memorandum Circular No. 75 issued by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dated 12 November 2004.

⁴ Ibid.

burgeoning fiscal deficit that our country currently has but will also cause the displacement and disenfranchisement of thousands employees of the regional offices in Zamboanga City.

It should be emphasized that the regional offices of the various national government agencies in Zamboanga City have been operating exceedingly well and the transfer order would abruptly uproot and seriously dislocate thousands of personnel at a time when the country is in dire straits.

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



KHYMER ADAN T. OLASO
Representative
1st District, Zamboanga City



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6405

Introduced by Representative Khymer Adan T. Olaso

AN ACT

**DECLARING ZAMBOANGA CITY AS THE REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT CENTER OF REGION IX AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. Zamboanga City is hereby declared as the Regional
Government Center for Region IX. All regional offices of departments and
agencies whose offices were established in Pagadian City are hereby directed to
transfer to Zamboanga City within 2 years from effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 2. Regional offices of departments and agencies whose offices were
established in Pagadian City shall serve as the regional offices' or agencies'
sub-regional office and shall headed by the department or agency's assistant
regional director for Region IX.

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

5
6 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
7 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this
8 Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

9
10 SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect upon completion of
11 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

12
13 *Approved,*
14