

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

**NINETEENTH (19<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6494**



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Introduced by **Hon. WILTER YAP PALMA**

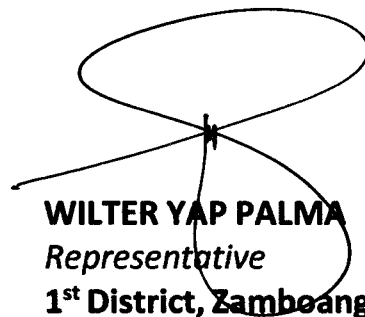
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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the 2020 census, the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay is home to a total of 669,840 Sibugaynons and a huge chunk of which are Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) of varying occupations and specialties whom are considered to be as our “modern-day heroes”. In fact, these heroes serve as one of our prime economic pillars that is keeping our economy afloat through their remittances.

However, each year, thousands of Sibugaynons are still accosted by long travel distances to the nearby provinces just to avail of the services offered by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), more particularly the issuance and renewal of passports. By establishing a DFA Office within the heart of Zamboanga Sibugay, the problems that have haunted the Sibugaynons in the form of grueling travel hours would be finally addressed once and for all.

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



**WILTER YAP PALMA**  
*Representative*  
**1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay**

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Quezon City, Philippines

**NINETEENTH (19<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
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**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) CONSULAR  
OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IPIL, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 Zamboanga  
3        Sibugay particularly in the Municipality of Ipil”.

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

7        **Section 3. *Establishment of the Consular Office.*** – There shall be established  
8        a regular Department Foreign Affairs’ Consular Office in the Province of Zamboanga  
9        Sibugay, particularly in the Municipality of Ipil.

10       **Section 4. *Nature of Consular Office.*** – The consular office sought to be  
11       established through this bill is a regular office and not a satellite office.

12       **Section 5. *Functions.*** – The regular office sought to be established shall  
13 perform functions the same as those which are being performed by the existing  
14 regular consular offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

15       **Section 6. *Appropriations.*** – Funding for this Act shall be included in the  
16 General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment and so forth.

17       **Section 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
18 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby  
19 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

20       **Section 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
21 proclamation and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent  
22 herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23       **Section 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
24 publication on the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

25  
26       *Approved,*  
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