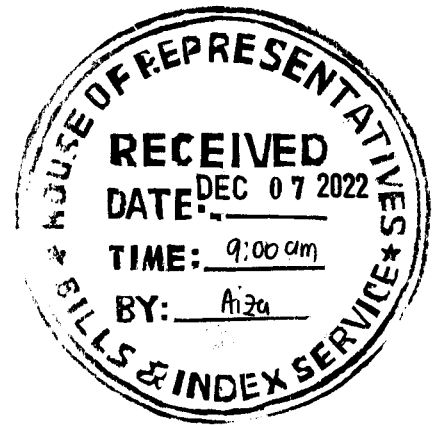


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6554



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to establish a Consular Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in the Municipality of Liloy, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

The Zamboanga Peninsula or Region IX is composed of three provinces- Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay, and has a population of 3,875,576 based on the 2020 census. Despite its large geographical scope and population, there is only one Consular Office of the DFA in the whole of Zamboanga Peninsula, which is located in the southern part of the region at Zamboanga City.

The Consular Offices of the DFA are at the forefront of the issuance of passports and other travel documents, as well as the authentication of documents for use overseas. However, during the previous years, the DFA has experienced an unprecedented surge in passport applications. Thus, the establishment of another Consular Office in Region IX, particularly in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, is needed, in order to address the problems of the delay in the online processing of passport applications.

Moreover, establishing the Consular Office of Zamboanga del Norte in the Municipality of Liloy is sought, considering that Liloy is strategically located at the center of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, as it is 154.2 kilometers from the Municipality of Sibuco, the southernmost part of the province, and 149.0 kilometers from the Dapitan City, the northernmost part of the province.

This bill will in turn uphold the mandate of the DFA Office of Consular Services of providing "efficient and effective delivery of passport, visa, and authentication services", as well as "extending assistance to Filipino nationals both here and abroad."

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


ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6554

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONSULAR OFFICE
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “*Zamboanga del Norte Consular Office Act.*”

SEC. 2. There is hereby established a Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Consular Office in the Municipality of Lilooy, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, to be known as the “Zamboanga del Norte Consular Office.”

SEC. 3. The Zamboanga del Norte Consular Office shall perform functions, and provide such services available, similar to the existing consular offices of the DFA.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the construction, establishment, and operationalization of the Zamboanga del Norte Consular Office shall be charged against the current year appropriations of the DFA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its regular and continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the budget of the DFA.

SEC. 5. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions, not affected thereby, shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 6. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

Sec. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,