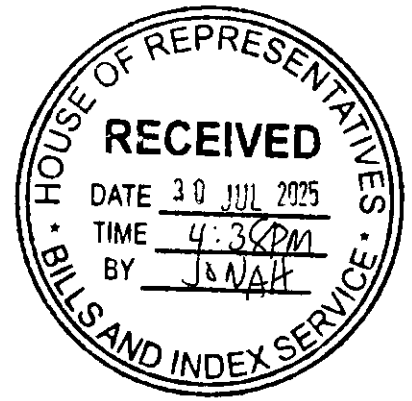


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2705



Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1st District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The establishment of provincial office of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) is essential to ensure that the needs of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families are adequately met, especially in areas where access to DMW services remains limited.

In 2020, the Philippine Statistics Authority estimated that there are 1.77 million OFWs. Notably, the Ilocos Region ranked fifth among all regions in terms of the number of OFWs. However, access to the programs and services of the DMW remains limited due to geographic and logistical constraints. OFWs and their dependents in the province have to travel considerable distances to secure the agency's services.

In recognition of this, the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte has proactively engaged in partnerships with national government agencies such as the DMW to implement mobile outreach programs, as reported by the Philippine News Agency on 7 November 2023. While commendable, such initiative cannot substitute for a permanent and fully operational presence of the DMW in the province.

Hence, this legislative measure seeks to establish a provincial office of the Department of Migrant Workers to be located in the Municipality of Bacarra, to be known as the *DMW Ilocos Norte Provincial Office*. The office shall serve as the primary hub for DMW operations in the province. Further, this proposed measure aims to decentralize the delivery of services, reduce financial and logistical burdens on OFWs, and sustain institutional support for the Filipino migrant sector in the region.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and wavy lines, representing the name Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos.

FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2705

Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1st District, Ilocos Norte

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACARRA,
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "DMW
ILOCOS NORTE PROVINCIAL OFFICE", AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a provincial office of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) to be located in the Municipality of Bacarra, Province of Ilocos Norte, to be known as the "*DMW Ilocos Norte Provincial Office*", which shall exercise jurisdiction over the Province of Ilocos Norte and shall be under the direct supervision of the DMW.

SEC. 2. The DMW Secretary shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of a provincial office in the Municipality of Bacarra, Province of Ilocos Norte, and shall transfer all records, property, equipment, supplies, and materials pertaining to the jurisdiction and administration of the new provincial office and shall provide all the necessary assistance in its establishment in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the DMW Ilocos Norte Provincial Office in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DMW Secretary shall promulgate the rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 5. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Any law, issuance or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified 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,