

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

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4004



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Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE CITY OF LIGAO AS THE SECONDARY ADMINISTRATIVE  
CAPITAL OF THE BICOL REGION AND DIRECTING NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RELATED TO FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE, AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO ESTABLISH SATELLITE OFFICES THEREIN**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Bicol Region (Region V) is composed of six provinces—Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, and Masbate. The current regional capital, Legazpi City, hosts most national government regional offices. However, its geographic position on the Pacific-facing eastern seaboard renders it highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards: typhoons, storm surges, floods, lahar flows, and eruptions of Mayon Volcano. These vulnerabilities can, and have in the past, disrupted regional governance and public service delivery.

By contrast, **Ligao City lies inland, shielded from storm surges, less exposed to Mayon's direct hazards, and positioned closer to the geographic midpoint of the Bicol Region.** Using both provincial centroid calculations and north–south latitude balancing, the Bicol midpoint is located around 13.08° N. Ligao City, at 13.216° N, sits barely fifteen kilometers north of this line, placing it almost exactly on the region's north–south axis. This geographic centrality makes Ligao more accessible to the Bicol provinces as a whole, especially when connected through the Daang Maharlika and other arterial highways that converge in its vicinity.

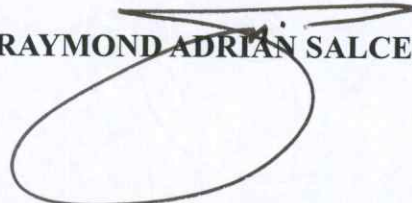
Ligao is also strategically situated within the Quinale Plains, one of the largest rice-producing areas of the region, and near Pantao and Pio Duran ports that link Albay with Masbate and the Visayas. This location makes it a natural hub for agriculture, fisheries, and rural development services—sectors that form the backbone of Bicol's economy and employ the majority of its population.

Accordingly, this bill declares Ligao City as the **Secondary Administrative Capital of the Bicol Region**. It directs national government agencies whose mandates are tied to agriculture, fisheries, and rural development—such as the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agrarian Reform, and Department of Trade and Industry—to prepare and establish satellite offices in Ligao. By doing so, farmers, fisherfolk, cooperatives, and rural entrepreneurs will have closer access to essential government services.

Furthermore, the measure mandates that the designation of Ligao as a secondary capital be incorporated into the **Regional Physical Framework Plan (RPFP)**, the **National Spatial Strategy (NSS)**, and other spatial development frameworks, thereby ensuring alignment with long-term planning for infrastructure, disaster resilience, and economic development.

By adopting Ligao City as the Secondary Administrative Capital, the Bicol Region will not only secure continuity of governance in times of disaster but also strengthen its rural development focus and ensure that regional planning is more geographically balanced.

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

  
**RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

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**RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO ESTABLISH SATELLITE OFFICES THEREIN**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration.* The City of Ligao, Province of Albay, is hereby declared as the Secondary Administrative Capital of the Bicol Region (Region V), to serve as an alternate seat of regional offices of the national government in the event of disruption, disaster, or other circumstances that impair the effective functioning of the primary regional capital in Legazpi City.

SEC. 2. *Secondary Seat of Regional Governance.* Regional offices of national government agencies may establish extension or satellite offices in Ligao City as part of continuity of governance. This designation shall not diminish the status of Legazpi City as the primary regional administrative capital.

SEC. 3. *Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development Agencies.* The Department of Agriculture (DA), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)—Forestry and Watershed offices, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)—Rural Industries programs, and other national government agencies whose core mandates are related to agriculture, fisheries, and rural development are hereby directed to prepare and implement plans for acquiring land, leasing, or otherwise establishing satellite offices in Ligao City.

These agencies shall ensure that such offices are designed to support farmers, fisherfolk, cooperatives, and rural communities across the Bicol Region.

SEC. 4. *Spatial Development Plans.* The designation of Ligao City as the Secondary Administrative Capital of the Bicol Region shall be integrated into the Regional Physical

Framework Plan (RPFP), the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), and other related long-term development frameworks prepared by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Regional Development Council (RDC). All spatial, economic, and infrastructure development plans at both the regional and national levels shall take this designation into account.

SEC. 5. *Disaster and Continuity of Government Functions.* The designation of Ligao City as the Secondary Administrative Capital shall form part of the regional disaster risk reduction and management strategy, ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of public services in times of calamity or crisis.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the National Economic and Development Authority, the Regional Development Council of Bicol, the Provincial Government of Albay, and the City Government of Ligao, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,