

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6473



Introduced by Representative KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to timely, efficient, and affordable passport and consular services remains a continuing challenge for many Filipinos living outside major urban centers. In the Third District of Cebu, residents from municipalities such as Aloguinsan, Asturias, Balamban, Barili, Tuburan, Pinamungajan, and Toledo City must travel two to three hours each way to reach existing Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Consular Offices located in Mandaue City, Cebu. This travel requirement poses significant financial and logistical burdens, especially for low-income families, students, senior citizens, and overseas Filipino worker (OFW) applicants.

The continued increase in demand for passport processing further shows the need to expand and decentralize DFA services. Before the pandemic, the DFA processed an average of 30,000 passport applications per day. In 2023 and 2024, as international travel resumed, appointment bookings rose sharply and created congestion in the consular offices located in major cities.

The establishment of a DFA Passport Service Satellite Office in the City of Toledo will significantly improve access to essential consular services for residents of the Third District of Cebu and nearby municipalities. It will reduce travel time and transportation costs, ease congestion in existing consular offices, and provide timely assistance to Filipinos who urgently need travel documents for work, education, or personal matters. In view of the need to enhance the accessibility, efficiency, and responsiveness of consular services in Cebu, particularly for underserved communities in the western and southwestern areas, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


Rep. KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA
3rd District, Province of Cebu

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PASSPORT SERVICE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) IN THE CITY OF TOLEDO,
PROVINCE OF CEBU, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Establishing a DFA Passport Service Satellite Office. There shall be established, under the supervision and administrative control of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), a Passport Service Satellite Office in the City of Toledo, Province of Cebu. The Satellite Office shall provide passport application processing, passport renewal, authentication, and other consular services to residents of Toledo City and adjacent cities and municipalities.

Section 2. Purpose. The establishment of the DFA Passport Service Satellite Office in Toledo City aims to:

- a. Enhance public access to passport and consular services in western Cebu;
- b. Reduce travel time and transportation burdens for applicants from geographically distant municipalities;
- c. Decongest existing DFA consular offices within Metro Cebu; and
- d. Support the growing demand for overseas employment, travel, and consular services among the constituents of the 3rd District of Cebu and neighboring areas.

Section 3. Staffing and Operations. The DFA shall assign adequate personnel, equipment, and resources to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Satellite Office. The Office shall adopt the standard operating procedures, security protocols, and digital systems used in all DFA consular offices.

Section 4. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the initial establishment and operation of the DFA Passport Service Satellite Office in Toledo City shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DFA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DFA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act, in consultation with the LGU of Toledo City and other relevant stakeholders.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,