

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7553



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

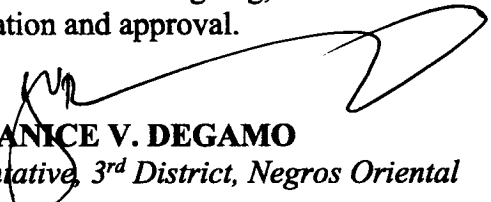
Article III Section 6 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution grants Filipino citizens the fundamental Right to Travel. In line with this Constitutional guarantee, Republic Act No. 8239 or the Philippine Passport Act provides that it is the duty of the government to issue passports or any travel documents to any citizens of the Philippines or individuals who complies with the requirement of the Act.

However, each year, residents from the Third District of Negros Oriental are confronted with the challenge of travelling to the nearest Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Consular Office in Dumaguete to avail its services particularly passport application and renewal. This situation imposes considerable time, cost, and logistical burdens on the residents, particularly those from the municipalities of Basay, Santa Catalina, Siaton, and the City of Bayawan.

In order to address this problem, this bill seeks to establish a Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Consular Office in the City of Bayawan, Province of Negros Oriental. The City of Bayawan serves as a hub for commerce, education, and government services in the Third District of Negros Oriental and not only caters to the needs of its own residents but also to the people of neighboring municipalities and cities .

The establishment of a DFA Satellite Office in the City of Bayawan will make passport and other consular services more accessible not only to its residents but to neighboring municipalities from the Third District of Negros Oriental as well as nearby towns and provinces. It will bring vital government services closer to the people and will support the growth and development of Negros Oriental.

Given the foregoing, this Bill is respectfully submitted for the immediate consideration and approval.


JANICE V. DEGAMO
Representative, 3rd District, Negros Oriental

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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING A PASSPORT SERVICE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) IN THE CITY OF BAYAWAN,
PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Establishment of a DFA Passport Service Satellite Office. - there shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), a Passport Service Satellite Office in the City of Bayawan, Province of Negros Oriental, to provide passport and related consular services to the residents of the area and adjacent local government units (LGUs).

Section 2. Staffing.- The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall assign the necessary personnel and provide the appropriate equipment, facilities, and materials for the effective operation of the Passport Service Satellite Office.

Section 3. Appropriations.- The amount necessary for the establishment and operations of the DFA Passport Service Satellite Office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act following the enactment of this Act.

Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DFA, shall formulate the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,