



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7650

Introduced by **Representative Francisco T. Matugas**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Extension Office in the Municipality of Dapa, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte.

Siargao has evolved from a quiet coastal area into a premier international tourist destination. This transformation has led to a massive increase in maritime activity, including island-hopping ventures, recreational watercraft, inter-island fast crafts and Ro-Ro vessels transporting essential goods and tourists.

Currently, boat owners, operators, and seafarers in Siargao must travel to Surigao City for basic administrative needs. This requires crossing the sea which is often expensive, time-consuming, and subject to weather disruptions. A local office removes these barriers, encouraging better compliance with maritime laws. With the high volume of passenger traffic, the presence of MARINA on the island is critical for on-site inspections of vessel seaworthiness, immediate processing of documents and strict enforcement of safety protocols to prevent maritime accidents in the tourism sector.

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

FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS
Representative
First District, Surigao del Norte



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AN ACT
CREATING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE MARITIME
INDUSTRY AUTHORITY LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF DAPA, SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. A Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Extension Office in the Municipality of Dapa, Province of Surigao del Norte is hereby created. The Extension Office shall provide services for the residents of Siargao Island and other nearby provinces.

SEC. 2. The Administrator of the MARINA shall immediately include in the Agency's programs the operationalization of the MARINA Extension Office in the Municipality of Dapa, Province of Surigao del Norte, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. Within Sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, through the Administrator of the MARINA, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* - The declaration of invalidity of any provision of this Act or part thereof shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, ordinances, or administrative circulars not consistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,