



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

20th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10654



Introduced by: REP. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Palawan is geographically vast, comprising more than 1,700 Islands and stretching over 400 kilometers from North to South. Its unique archipelagic character presents significant challenges in the delivery of basic education services. At present, the entire province is supervised by a single Schools Division Office under the Department of Education (DepEd), which oversees hundreds of schools scattered across remote municipalities and island municipalities.

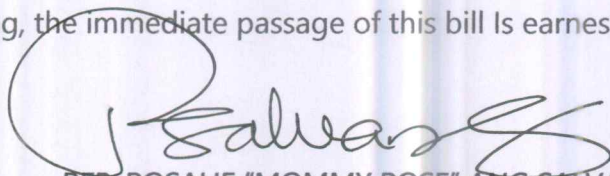
This centralized arrangement has resulted in administrative inefficiencies, logistical burdens, and limited access to timely support for teachers, learners, and school administrators. The sheer distance between schools and the division office often requires stakeholders to travel long hours, even days, by land and sea, incurring substantial costs and delays in the processing of permits, reports, and other essential services.

The creation of two Schools Divisions in Palawan - one for the Northern Municipalities and another for the Southern Municipalities - will:

- Decentralize governance and bring education services closer to communities
- Improve efficiency in supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of schools.
- Enhance support for teachers and learners by reducing administrative bottlenecks
- Promote equitable access to quality education across the province, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas
- Strengthen local development by aligning educational programs with the socio-economic priorities of each sub-region.

This measure is consistent with the constitutional mandate to ensure accessible and quality education for all, and with the government's commitment to balanced regional development. By establishing two Schools Division in Palawan, the State affirms its responsibility to provide responsive efficient, and Inclusive educational governance.

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



REP. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME
Representative, 1st District of Palawan





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AN ACT
CREATING TWO SCHOOLS DIVISIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, PROVIDING
FOR THEIR ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, AND APPROPRIATIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Palawan Schools Division Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure accessible, efficient, and quality basic education services. In line with this mandate, the Province of Palawan shall be reorganized into two Schools Division to decentralize governance and improve service delivery.

SECTION 3. *Creation of Schools Divisions.* - There shall be created two Schools Divisions in Palawan, namely:

1. Palawan Norte Schools Division, covering northern municipalities in the First Legislative District of Palawan, and
2. Palawan Sur Schools Division, covering the southern City and municipalities in the Second and Third Legislative Districts of Palawan.

The specific territorial coverage of each division shall be determined by the Department of Education In consultation with local government units.

SECTION 4. *Organization and Staffing* - Each Schools Division shall be headed by a Schools Divisions Superintendent and shall be provided with plantilla positions for administrative, technical, and support staff, including, but not limited to:

- Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
- Education Program Supervisors
- Administrative Officers
- Engineers, Nurses, and other essential personnel

SECTION 5. *Appropriation*. - The amount necessary for the Implementation of this Act shall be Included In the annual General Appropriations Act. DepEd shall allocate funds for the establishment of offices, staffing, and operational requirements of the two Schools Division.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the Department of Education.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, decrees, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in the two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.