

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1408

Introduced by **KABATAAN PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND V. PALATINO**

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON LABOR & EMPLOYMENT AND GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EXECUTIVE ORDER 682 DIRECTING THE TRANSFER OF REGIONAL OFFICE 4-B OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU (EMB), AND THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU (MGB) TO CALAPAN CITY IN ORDER TO ADDRESS CONCERNS OF ITS EMPLOYEES AND ITS CONSTITUENTS WITH REGARD TO ALLEGED CONSTRUCTIVE DISMISSALS.

WHEREAS, On October 28, 2003, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 246 directing the transfer of DENR Region IV-A (CALABARZON) from its location along Roxas Boulevard, Manila to Calamba City, Laguna on the premise that such transfer will foster better coordination and promote efficiency in the discharge of functions between and among agencies operating in the CALABARZON area;

WHEREAS, based on the same premise, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed on November 22, 2007 Executive Order No. 682 designating Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro as the Regional Center for Region IV-B (MIMAROPA) effectively directing all MIMAROPA regional offices of all government departments and agencies to transfer to the said city;

WHEREAS, contrary to the claim that the transfer will foster efficiency in the delivery of DENR's services to the people of Region IV, the transfer will entail added time and cost for the people, and further aggravate the bureaucratic red tape, as there are no direct commercial routes between Romblon, Marinduque and Palawan and people from these provinces would have to first travel to Luzon to ride a ferry to Calapan in order to reach the regional office;

WHEREAS, contrary to the claim that the transfer will be beneficial to the government as it will cut operating expenses, the transfer will actually entail added costs arising from the rent of the building in Calapan, as opposed to not paying any rent for the present offices of the regional office occupying a public building;

WHEREAS, the transfer will also entail added costs arising from the relocation and shipping of existing

equipment, from the purchase of new ones, and from the construction of new infrastructure, all of which will amount to more than 150 million pesos (P 150,000,000);

WHEREAS, it is more feasible and cost-efficient for the government to strengthen the already existing satellite offices in MIMAROPA and to employ more employees rather than laying them off;

WHEREAS, when the transfer is implemented, almost all of the three hundred (300) employees of the regional office presently residing in Metro Manila will be forced to leave the agency since it will entail an unbearable economic burden for them and their families;

WHEREAS, the forced relocation of the existing employees is a form of constructive dismissal because such transfer will be most exorbitant for the employees, whose meagre pay will be unable to cover the expenses of travel alone to and from Calapan since their families are residing in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the building to be occupied by the regional office in Calapan can only actually accommodate sixty-five (65) employees, not all the three hundred (300) present employees of the office;

WHEREAS, the transfer will also mean dislocation, not only for the employees but also for their respective families, where the children's education and welfare will be irregularly attended to or most likely stopped;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the House to direct the Committee Labor & Employment and on Government Reorganization to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the transfer of Regional Office 4-B of the DENR from Manila to Calapan, Mindoro;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the House to direct the Committee on Labor & Employment and on Government Reorganization to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the transfer of other government agencies and offices under the similar premise of fostering better coordination and promote efficiency in the discharge of functions between and among different government agencies.

Adopted,



Rep. **RAYMOND V. PALATINO**
KABATAAN Party-list