



Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Cotabato City



EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(First Regular Session)

RESOLUTION NO. 581

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO)-HEAD OFFICE IN MANILA, THROUGH THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE NSO-ARMM, TO ESTABLISH PROVINCIAL NSO-COMPUTERIZED PROCESSING OFFICES IN THE ARMM FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SECURITY PAPER (SECPA) AS REQUIRED FOR ALL CIVIL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO TRAVEL, PASSPORT, INSURANCE CLAIM, DEATH BENEFITS AND OTHERS.

WHEREAS, as a matter of policy, the national government implemented the authentication of documents such as birth certificate, marriage certificate, baptismal certificate, death certificate, and the like, through the issuance of the Security Paper or SECPA by the National Statistics Office-Head Office in Manila duly signed by the Administrator;

WHEREAS, the security paper issued by the NSO is now given more weight than the original birth certificate in the appreciation of both documents upon presentation;

WHEREAS, this development evolved out of a Supreme Court decision in a landmark case promulgated in 2002, declaring that the NSO-lifted paper must be preferred over the original birth paper, because the latter is more prone to fraud and other methods of deliberate civil registration tampering;

WHEREAS, it was explained that the SECPA itself, its colored appearance in particular, changes every year so that it may not be easily copied by illegal syndicates, and all the embassies outside the country are duly advised on what color will be dominant in a given year;

WHEREAS, residents of the ARMM who are applying for issuance of passport or NBI/Police/Court clearances for purposes of foreign travel and employment are required to submit to the national agencies the SECPA of their civil documents as a pre-requisite;

WHEREAS, similarly, when ARMM residents apply for loans with the GSIS or banks, or file claims for insurance benefits and pensions including claims for death benefits of departed members of the PNP and military by their spouses as beneficiaries, the submission of civil documents in the form of NSO security paper issued by the Civil Registrar are also required;

WHEREAS, at present, the SECPA is issued only at the NSO-Head Office in Manila and the computerized processing services of the NSO-Regional Offices in the cities of Zamboanga, Pagadian and Cotabato are linked online to the centrally-controlled computerized system in the NSO-Head Office in Manila;

WHEREAS, ARMM residents are burdened by the fact that they have to travel from their respective provinces to the NSO-Regional Offices and spend considerable money for transportation fare, food and lodging in order to secure the SECPA, not to mention that in the process, they are also deprived of an efficient and prompt attention from the government ;

WHEREAS, specifically, the applicants for the SECPA in the ARMM provinces where there are no NSO offices are having difficulty securing it, because they have to travel to the NSO-Regional Offices in Zamboanga City and Pagadian City (for residents of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi) and in Cotabato City (for residents of Lanao Sur, Lanao Norte and Maguindanao);

WHEREAS, this problem can be addressed through the establishment of provincial NSO-computerized processing offices in the capital towns of all the provinces under ARMM coverage that will allow expeditious processing and issuance of the SECPA to be linked online with the NSO-Head Office in Manila;

WHEREAS, if ever this request is granted, it will not be the first time that extension offices of national agencies will be set up at the LGU level, as the Department of Labor and Employment, the Bureau of Immigration and the Land Transportation Office have done so in the past.

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that in the exigency of public service, the Administrator of the National Statistics Office (NSO)-Head Office is hereby respectfully requested, through the proper representation of the Regional Director of the NSO-ARMM, to cause the establishment and maintenance of NSO Provincial Computerized Processing Offices in the capital towns of all the provinces under coverage of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to ensure the expeditious processing and issuance of the NSO security paper or SECPA to bona-fide applicants of the ARMM;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this measure is considered a necessary step for efficient delivery of public service to the people of the ARMM, and as a showcase that the ARMM is not a basket case of the so-called "Failed Experiment" where the local residents are deprived of effective and fast delivery of essential government services;

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the copies of this Resolution must be furnished to all the concerned government agencies and offices for their proper action.

ADOPTED, September 3, 2013.

Certified Correct:

SIDDIQUE S. MALI
Director III
Legislative Operations Service

Attested:

DATU ROONIE Q. SINSUAT
Speaker