EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the population of the Province of Samar increased significantly in the past years, the need for direct government service delivery has also magnified. Among the many necessary government services that the People of Samar clearly need is an office to accommodate their travel and foreign affairs needs. As of today, the residents of the province still have to suffer through hours of travel in order to apply for or renew their passports in Tacloban, Cebu or, in the case of some dire need, Metro Manila.

To ameliorate the situation, it is proposed that a new extension office of the Department of Foreign Affairs be established in Calbayog City. The extension office shall operate as a sub-regional hub and allow the population of Samar and Northern Samar to access the services of the DFA without much difficulty.

For the aforementioned reasons, the undersigned submits this bill again for the consideration of this august body. This bill was first filed during the 17th Congress.

EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO  
First District of Samar
AN ACT CREATING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CALBAYOG CITY, SAMAR PROVINCE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. An extension office of the Department of Foreign Affairs shall be created in
Calbayog City, Samar Province. The extension office shall serve as the sub-regional hub for
the Provinces of Samar and Northern Samar, and provide services for the residents of the
aforementioned provinces.

Section 2. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall include in the Department’s programs the
operationalization of the regular extension office in Calbayog City, the initial funding of
which shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the satellite office located
in Calbayog City, Province of Samar. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
regular and continued operation of the DFA Extension Office shall be included in the annual
General Appropriations Act.

Section 3. Effectivity. – This Act shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its publication
in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.