RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNOR, HONORABLE ARTHUR D. DEFENSOR, SR., TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA), FOR AND IN BEHALF OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO, WITH THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA) AND THE COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS (CFO) TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A MIGRANTS RESOURCES CENTER WHICH IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE GENERAL PROGRAM OF “MAINSTREAMING” MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO, SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS STIPULATED THEREIN

"Presented for consideration of the Body is Committee Report No. 2015-04 of the Committee on Ordinances, Legal Matters and Inter-Government Relations, chaired by the Honorable Demetrio P. Sonza, relative to the 1st Indorsement of the Secretary, Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Iloilo, dated January 28, 2015, the herein letter dated January 19, 2015, of Governor Arthur D. Defensor, Sr. requesting for authority to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) to establish and maintain a Migrants Resources Center which is part and parcel of the general program of mainstreaming Migration & Development programs in the Province of Iloilo;

WHEREAS, Western Visayas is the sixth top sending region of Filipinos for residence or work abroad with more than 200,000 immigrants, and 400,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in 2012 remitting almost P22 billion pesos;

WHEREAS, in times of disasters and calamities, as in the case of Typhoon Yolanda, one of those groups that immediately provided support for relief and early recovery of affected families in Western Visayas were overseas Filipinos, individually or collectively through their organizations and networks;

WHEREAS, although local authorities are closer to the ground and are in better position to respond to Migration and Development (M&D) concerns if given the right information and technical assistance, yet they have not received the same level of attention and support as that of national government agencies;

WHEREAS, there is still a need to increase awareness and strengthen the capacity of regional and local government authorities, particularly in linking M&D and in mainstreaming M&D in their local development plans and investment programs, providing structural reforms that promote and enhance
investment, employment, business or entrepreneurial activities in Western Visayas in partnership with the overseas Filipinos and private sector groups;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines, in view of the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is implementing the additional project on M&D related to the global Joint Migration and Development Initiative Phase II (JMD II), a program supported by the SDC and the European Union which aims to strengthen and reinforce the role of migration for development by upscaling and institutionalizing local M&D initiatives in support of disaster risk and reduction measures in the region in line with the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY) plan and the Office of the Presidential Assistance on Reconstruction and Recovery (OPARR) Livelihood Cluster Action Plan;

WHEREAS, the project is implemented by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) as the national government implementing partner and the NEDA VI, acting on behalf of the RDC VI as the regional implementing partner, with the League of Local Planning and Development Coordinators of Western Visayas (LLPDC-WV), Inc., Signpost Philippines, and the Provincial Governments of Western Visayas as project partners at the regional level;

WHEREAS, the RDC VI approved the implementation of the project through Resolution No. 18, series of 2014;

WHEREAS, the RDC VI passed Resolution No. 19, series of 2014, authorizing the NEDA Regional Director to sign for and on behalf of the Council, the Memorandum of Agreement with the Commission on Filipino Overseas on the implementation of the “Migration and Development Initiative for Western Visayas (MDI-WV) Project”;

WHEREAS, the project will be implemented from July 2014 to April 2016 with a total budget of US$229,991.00;

WHEREAS, a committee hearing was conducted on the said subject matter last February 13, 2015 that was attended by committee members and representatives of committee members, resource speakers from the SP Secretariat, the Provincial Legal Office, the Provincial Planning and Development Office and the National Economic and Development Authority;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Legal Office opined that the MOA is valid pursuant to Section 16 (General Welfare) and Section 465 (a) and (b) (1) (vi) (The Chief Executive: Powers, Duties, Functions and Compensation) of RA 7160;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing considerations, it is recommended that the Governor be authorized to enter into the said undertaking;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of the Honorable June S. Mondejar, Floor Leader, together with the Honorable Paulino M. Parian, Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Ordinances, Legal Matters and Inter-Government Relations, which was duly seconded;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby Resolved, to authorize the Governor, Honorable Arthur D. Defensor, Sr., to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), for and in behalf of the Province of Iloilo, with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) to establish and maintain a Migrants Resources Center which is part and parcel of the general program of “mainstreaming” Migration & Development Programs in the Province of Iloilo, subject to all the terms and conditions stipulated therein;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to furnish copies of this Resolution, the Governor, Honorable Arthur D. Defensor, Sr; Regional Director Ro-anne A. Bacal, NEDA, Fort San Pedro, Iloilo City; Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas, Chairperson, Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Citigold Center, 1345 Pres. Quirino Ave., corner South Superhighway, Manila; the Offices of the Provincial Legal Officer and the Provincial Planning and Development Officer; and the Honorable Deometrio P. Sonza, Chairperson, Committee on Ordinances, Legal Matters and Inter-Government Relations, all of the Province of Iloilo, for their information and guidance;

APPROVED."
I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above-quoted Resolution.

ATTY. RAUL S. TIOSAYCO, JR.
Secretary to the Sanggunian

CONCURRED BY:
JUNE S. MONDEJAR
Floor Leader

ATTESTED BY:
RAUL "Bobby" C. TUPAS
Presiding Officer