

Vargas renews call for disability offices in local government units

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QUEZON City Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas renewed his appeal to local government units (LGUs) to establish their respective Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) in accordance with Republic Act 10070 or the amended Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.

Vargas said he expects the LGUs to fulfill their role in establishing a PDAO in every province, city and municipality, to further ensure the implementation of programs and services for persons with disabilities, as mandated by RA 10070 which was enacted in 2010.

“More than 12 years after the law was enacted, Filipino persons with disabilities remain vulnerable to marginalization with the absence of established PDAOs in many LGUs in the country,” Vargas said in a House Resolution 209 he earlier filed in the House of Representatives.

Out of the 81 provinces, 146 cities and 1,488 municipalities in the country, Vargas noted in the resolution the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) reported that only a total of 387 LGUs have established a PDAO as of June 2021.

Of the 387 LGUs, only 254 have designated Focal Persons that may function as PDAO in the absence of such and is particularly found in 4th to 7th class municipalities.