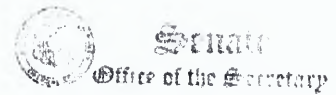


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 JUL 12 A9:01

S. B. No. 305

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE NAVY, THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, AND
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE MARITIME GROUP, BY THE PURCHASE
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FLOATING HOSPITALS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As of 2021, the Philippines ranked 8th out of 180 countries most at risk of natural disasters.¹ Given that fact, the country's archipelagic features make it more difficult to deliver help and basic services to people in far-flung areas and remote islands. Given that we are an archipelago with more than 7,600 islands, climate change and the people's lack of access to emergency and medical facilities could aggravate casualties or injuries. The Government's challenge is having world class medical and emergency services while many of our provinces, cities, and municipalities are still developing.

One way to adapt and innovate amid these obstacles is proposed by this bill, which seeks to establish Floating Hospitals under the supervision of the Philippine Navy (PN), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG) and the Department of Health (DOH). These ships may also be the first disaster responders to be docked at point areas of the archipelago for prompt health services and humanitarian assistance. These hospitals will be capacitated to provide primary up to tertiary minimum healthcare services, like general care, emergency, intensive care, gynecology, and other surgeries.

These floating ships may also be prepositioned where calamities like super typhoons, and the like are predicted to happen in order to mitigate the damage to lives and properties possibly caused by these disasters.

Aside from Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response (HADR), hospital ships offer more benefits. First, such ships will empower the medical corps of the PN, PCG, and PNP-MG for improved quality services to both their personnel and to the people.

The assurance of having capable and competent medical and emergency service is also good for tourism. Modern-day tourists research their destination's facilities and capability for emergency services beforehand. While our country no

¹<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2021/10/05/400911/philippines-ranks-eighth-most-at-risk-country-for-disasters/>

doubt has the best beaches, mountain paths, and the like, the challenge is having medical and emergency services which are accessible to tourists.

Military and police presence in remote areas could also ward off the presence of insurgent groups, resulting in the overall improved security of the areas.

The hospital ship will be a vital tool for immediate disaster response in archipelagic nations like the Philippines. Having mobile and active hospitals as such could help elevate and advance the delivery of health services within the reach of those who live in remote and inaccessible areas of the country.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Floating Hospitals*
2 *Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.** – The State shall protect and promote the right to
5 health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It shall also adopt
6 an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall
7 endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the
8 people.

9
10 It is the policy of the State to modernize the Philippine Navy, the Philippine
11 Coast Guard, and the Philippine National Police with the goal of making them highly
12 capable and competent agencies, including in the area of emergency services and
13 healthcare.

14
15 To this end, Congress shall enact laws and programs for the provision of
16 accessible healthcare services and the implementation of efficient medical response
17 to the People, especially the underprivileged sick, elderly, women, and children in far
18 flung areas in times of natural and/or man-made calamities and disasters.

19
20 **SEC. 3. Purposes and Objectives.** – The Floating Hospitals shall have the
21 following purposes and objectives:

- 22
23 a. To complement the country’s existing medical infrastructure in order to
24 provide a more efficient medical service to inaccessible and far-flung areas
25 especially in times of natural and/or man-made disasters;
26 b. To establish, operate, manage, and maintain a mobile hospital that is highly
27 responsive to the needs of individuals affected by natural and/or man-made
28 disasters, especially in far-flung and underserved areas; and

- 1 c. To improve and develop the country's disaster response and management
2 through the provision of immediate medical attention and humanitarian
3 assistance during and after the onslaught of natural and/or man-made
4 disasters.
5

6 **SEC. 4. Purchase and Establishment of the Floating Hospitals.** - The
7 Philippine Navy (PN), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the Philippine National
8 Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG) shall each purchase and establish level 3 floating
9 hospitals each under their respective control and supervision. Once established, there
10 shall be a floating hospital at any given time for each of the main island groups of
11 Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
12

13 The Department of Health (DOH) shall assist the agencies in establishing and
14 maintaining said floating hospitals.
15

16 Immediately after the implementation of this Act and for two (2) years while
17 the ships or vessels and the required health facilities undergo the procurement
18 process, the personnel of the PN, PCG, and the PNP-MG shall undergo relevant
19 training to serve as manpower of the floating hospitals.
20

21 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
22 of this Act shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year
23 following its enactment, and every year thereafter.
24

25 **SEC. 6. Report to Congress.** - One (1) year after the implementation of this
26 Act and the establishment of the Floating Hospital, the respective heads of agency of
27 the PN, PCG, and the PNP-MTG shall submit a written report to Congress containing
28 the actions taken to implement the provisions of this Act. They shall report on the
29 necessity or desirability of purchasing and maintaining more floating hospitals.
30

31 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** - If any part or provision of this Act is declared
32 invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain
33 valid.
34

35 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
36 orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to
37 the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.
38

39 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
40 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,