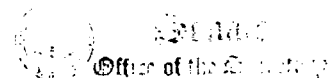


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



23 AUG 31 P12 :46

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2431**

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**AN ACT**  
**CONVERTING THE BASILAN GENERAL HOSPITAL INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL KNOWN AS THE BASILAN MEDICAL CENTER, UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY, MODERNIZING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution proclaims that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Moreover, Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution declares that "[t]he State shall pursue a holistic and unified approach to health advancement, aiming to provide essential goods, health, and other social services to all at a reasonable cost." Towards this end, the State acknowledges and upholds the rights of every Filipino to health, by ensuring access to proper health care facilities and services.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a unique and severe challenge to our nation's healthcare system. The pandemic amplified the lack of capacity of many of our health care facilities to address traditional types of diseases as well as novel ones. This is true especially to the poorest and geographically isolated provinces in the country. For instance, the Basilan province houses six hospitals, with four (4) located in Isabela City and two (2) in Lamitan City. However, these are all Level 1 hospitals, having restricted capabilities for treating critically-ill patients. Such patients are often referred

to more advanced hospitals like the Zamboanga City Medical Center, which is only reachable by sea transport.


The Basilan General Hospital (BGH) stands as the sole hospital in Basilan retained by the Department of Health (DOH). BGH, equipped with a 100-bed capacity, was established through Republic Act No. 8453, titled "An Act Converting the Basilan Provincial Hospital in the Municipality of Isabela, Province of Basilan, into a Tertiary Hospital with the DOH's complete administrative and technical oversight, expanding its capacity to one hundred (100) beds." This act was legislated in 1998.

At present, BGH functions below its allocated bed capacity. Notwithstanding these constraints, BGH has consistently offered health services to those in distress. The facility has attended to numerous patients, more so before the COVID-19 pandemic struck.


This bill aims to upgrade the Basilan General Hospital to a tertiary hospital, proposed to be named the Basilan Medical Center (BMC). We envisage the BMC as a leading-edge hospital, equipped with the latest medical amenities and pioneering medical instruments, offering top-notch, cost-effective services through its proficient and skilled healthcare workers.

Through this initiative, our goal is to bring superior healthcare services closer not only to the residents of Basilan but also to the entire Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi area, enhancing our defenses against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

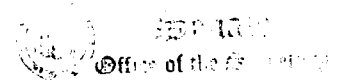
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**  
*Senator*



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

1 Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "*Basilan Medical Center Act*".

2 Sec. 2. The Basilan General Hospital located in Isabela City, Province of Basilan,  
3 is hereby converted and expanded into a tertiary level hospital to be known as Basilan  
4 Medical Center (BMC), under the direct supervision and control of the Department of  
5 Health (DOH).

6 The authorized bed capacity of BMC is hereby increased to five hundred (500)  
7 beds. The increase in bed capacity shall be implemented for a period of two (2) years  
8 from the approval of this Act. Any future increase in bed capacity shall be consistent  
9 with the hospital development plan and its status as tertiary hospital, which shall be  
10 prepared by the Medical Center Chief of BMC and submitted to the Department of  
11 Health (DOH).

12 Sec. 3. The existing professional health care services and facilities shall also be  
13 upgraded and increased correspondingly to conform with the increase in its authorized  
14 bed capacity as provided for in Section 2 hereof, consistent with the requirements of

1 modern medical services and state-of-the-science equipment and technology, as  
2 reflected in the hospital development plan and its status as tertiary hospital.

3 Sec. 4. The existing workforce of the BMC, including doctors, nurses, and  
4 support personnel, shall also be increased correspondingly, consistent with the  
5 hospital development plan and its status as tertiary hospital.

6 The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management  
7 (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and in consultation with the Medical  
8 Center Chief of BMC, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created  
9 and filled up.

10 Sec. 5. The Secretary of the DOH shall immediately include in the Department's  
11 programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the  
12 annual General Appropriations Act.

13 Sec. 6. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder  
14 of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

15 Sec. 7. All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the  
16 provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

17 Sec. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
18 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,