

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 240

Introduced by **HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ D. DADIVAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the Roxas Memorial General Hospital (RMGH) in the Province of Capiz, into a tertiary Level II hospital to be known as President Manuel A. Roxas Memorial Regional Hospital, upgrading its medical service capability as well as increasing its bed capacity from 75 to 150. This shall be under the direct control, supervision and management of the Department of Health (DOH).

The RMGH remains as a 75-bed hospital licensed by the DOH to provide tertiary level of care. It provides health services Medicine, Surgery, OB-Gyne and Pediatrics primarily to more than half million residents of Capiz. However, due to the RMGH's strategic location in the northern part of Panay, it likewise extends its services to residents from the municipalities of Estancia and Carles in Iloilo, Altavas and Libaco in Aklan, including also patients from the provinces of Romblon and Masbate. Hospital records show that in 1997, 6,991 were admitted for various illnesses while 27,353 sought consultations in its Out-patient department. A total of 467 major surgical procedures and 214 caesarian operations were conducted in the same year.

RMGH is the only tertiary hospital currently operating within the province of Capiz. It serves as the referral point for four (4) district hospitals and three (3) municipal hospitals in area. For the past years, the percentage occupancy rate has risen. From an average occupancy rate of 92% in 1995, RMGH tried to accommodate more 100% of its capacity in 1997 and stretch its funding requirements for each patient especially for the maintenance and operating expenses.

Yet, despite the RMGH's attempt to provide quality health care beyond its capacity, about 19% of the cases seen by the hospital was turned down and referred to a higher level health facility. Inaccessibility to the only regional hospital in the Western Visayas area located in the Island of Negros which is

about 136 km., plus an hour's travel away from Capiz, force patients referred by the RMGH and other provincial hospitals in the Island of Panay to seek for the appropriate health care at the West Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo City. The tremendous influx of referred patients from the five provinces (Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo and Guimaras) in the Island of Panay seeking quality health care at the West Visayas Medical Center has led to a total admission of more than 16,424 patients in 1997. Hence, there is an urgent need to convert the RMGH into a regional hospital to accommodate and handle various cases of referrals from nearby provincial hospitals in the northern part in the Island of Panay. Outfitted with the required facilities, manpower and support to handle greater range of medical and surgical conditions, the upgraded RMGH will not only be able to ease the increasing demand for accommodation in the Western Visayas Medical Center, but will likewise assure the residents of the northern part of Panay, specifically the province of Capiz, better patient care, less expenses and immediate medical intervention.

Moreover, the RMGH functions as a teaching-training hospital to develop the proficiency and dexterity of medical and paramedical personnel. For RMGH to effectively impart the knowledge, skills and values to the future providers of health care to the people, it has to provide the proper environment and technical know-how to students. This can only be achieved if the RMGH acquires newer and more sophisticated medical equipment and attracts more medical specialist and consultants.

The resources needed to upgrade the capability of the RMGH, however, can not be shouldered solely by the provincial government. They can only be adequately provided for with the conversion of the RMGH into a regional hospital, fully supported by the National Government.

The conversion of the RMGH into a regional hospital, under the direct control, supervision and management of the DOH, shall effectively qualify the Hospital for medical equipment and facilities and adequately paid and competent medical specialist, among others, to ably meet the fast increasing demand of the area for accessible health care and quality health services similar to the regional hospitals in the country.

This measure is subsequent to the version, which was filed during the Twelfth Congress. The Twelfth Congress version of this bill was pending with the House Committee on Health for approval but the insufficiency of time impeded its passage into law. For this reason, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



RODRIGUEZ D. DADIVAS
1st District of Capiz

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Introduced by **HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ D. DADIVAS**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROXAS MEMORIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL IN
ROXAS, PROVINCE OF CAPIZ, INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL II HOSPITAL, TO
BE KNOWN AS THE PRESIDENT MANUEL A. ROXAS MEMORIAL
REGIONAL HOSPITAL.**

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

SECTION 1. The Roxas memorial General Hospital in the Province of Capiz is hereby upgraded into a tertiary level II hospital, to be known as the President Manuel A. Roxas General Hospital.

SECTION 2. The upgrading shall provide the hospital with the capability of a tertiary level II hospital, entitling it to: increase its bed capacity to a minimum of one hundred fifty (150); increase its operating fund; upgrade its medical facilities and manpower capabilities; and construct the needed infrastructure.

SECTION 3. Upon its upgrading, the President Manuel A. Roxas Memorial general Hospital shall be under the direct control, supervision and management of the Department of Health..

SECTION 4. The Department of Health shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 5. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for the Organizational Adjustments Fund. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,