

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 4949



Introduced by **Hon. Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco – Catera**
and **Hon. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to re-nationalize the hospitals in the province of Marinduque, and place the same under the direct control, management, and supervision of the Department of Health.

The Local Government Code of 1991 was promulgated with the laudable objective of providing for more responsive and accountable services to the public. In pursuit thereof, health services were devolved to the local government units. Thus, government hospitals in the province of Marinduque were placed under the supervision and control of the provincial government.

It must be emphasized, however, that it is the national government, through the Department of Health, which has the proven expertise to manage these hospitals and to maximize the use of their resources for the benefit of patients served by such hospitals.

The province of Marinduque currently has three (3) hospitals, namely the Torrijos Municipal Hospital in the municipality of Torrijos, the Sta. Cruz District Hospital in the municipality of Sta. Cruz, and the Dr. Damian J. Reyes Memorial Hospital in the Municipality of Boac. Sadly, these hospitals lack the proper facilities to provide adequate or sufficient medical services to the people of Marinduque. While hospitals throughout the country are being upgraded and modernized, these hospitals, instead, were lamentably downgraded in recent years. The lack or complete absence of sufficient diagnostic tools, competent personnel, and specialized medical services brought about by the neglect and mismanagement of the responsible officials have resulted in the failure of these hospitals to serve the needs of the people of Marinduque.

Most of the time, due to the inability of these hospitals to competently handle sensitive and complicated cases, patients are routinely advised to seek medical attention outside Marinduque. This is specially aggravated by the fact that Marinduque is an island province. Its isolation is highlighted even more by the fact that there are no regular flights to and from the

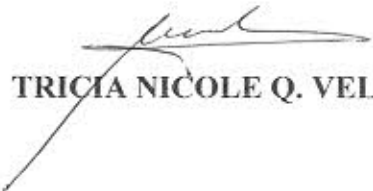
province. Currently, the only way in and out of Marinduque is by Roll On-Roll Off (Ro-Ro) Ships. It takes at least three (3) hours to get to the nearest government hospital which is the Quezon Medical Center in Lucena City. Patients who are in critical condition are unnecessarily placed in grave danger. Others choose to rather stay, plainly because they do not have the financial means to travel.

Despite many attempts to lobby for improved medical facilities and services, these hospitals have remained the same. The people of Marinduque have languished far too long already. Hence, there is an immediate and pressing need to return the control, management, and supervision of the aforementioned Marinduque hospitals to the Department of Health.

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



LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO



TRICIA NICOLE Q. VELASCO-CATERA

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**AN ACT RE-NATIONALIZING ALL HOSPITALS LOCATED IN THE
PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, PLACING THE SAME UNDER THE
DIRECT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, AND SUPERVISION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. – All the hospitals located in the province of Marinduque, namely the Torrijos Municipal Hospital in the municipality of Torrijos, the Sta. Cruz District Hospital in the municipality of Sta. Cruz, and the Dr. Damian J. Reyes Memorial Hospital in the Municipality of Boac, collectively referred to as the “Hospitals”, are hereby re-nationalized and placed under the direct control, management, and supervision of the Department of Health.

SEC. 2. – All records, equipment, assets, liabilities, and personnel shall revert to the National Government.

SEC. 3. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

The local government unit (LGU) concerned shall continue to provide funding for the Hospitals until such time that their full funding is included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. - The Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder

of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 6. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,