

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5208**



Introduced by Honorable Ruby M. Sahali

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2010, the Department of Health recorded 1,719 maternal deaths. These deaths were due to complication related to pregnancy that occur in the course of labor, delivery and puerperium, hypertension complicating pregnancy, and childbirth and puerperium according to the DOH. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country although it decreased from 221 per 100,000 live births in 2011 to 149 per 100,000 livebirths in 2015, Philippines still did not meet its MDG target of 51 per 100,000 livebirths. Many women still do not go to hospitals for birth delivery or avail of prenatal check-ups.

The Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao has one of the highest MMR in the country. DOH ARMM reported that there was an improvement in maternal health care when the MMR decreased from 245 per 100,000 live births in 2008 to 66 per 100,000 live births in 2013. This improvement according to the DOH ARMM, was attributed to Active Management of Third Stage Labor (AMTFL), a technique that does not use sophisticated machines; deployment of additional health personnel, rehabilitation and construction of health infrastructures, delivery of equipment and enhancement of skills through training.

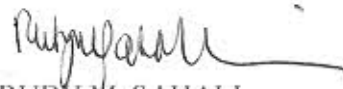
However, MMR rose to 71,000 per 100,000 live births in 2014. This goes to show that despite the efforts of the regional DOH these are not enough to consistently improve maternal health care and reduce maternal mortality. There are limitations to the current techniques being used.

Republic Act 10354 or the "The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012" mandates that there should be hospitals and facilities with adequate and skilled personnel, equipment and supplies for provision of emergency obstetric and newborn care services. The Department of Health has issued standards for Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEMONC) and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEMONC) that hospitals and facilities, including Rural Health Units to meet these standards.

Sec. 6 states that people in geographically isolated or highly populated and depressed areas should have the same level of access to these health care facilities.

This proposed bill aims to ensure the implementation of Section 6 of RA 10354 in ARMM by providing for essential support to barangay health stations, rural health units, district and community hospitals in ARMM so they can meet the standards of BEMONC and CEMPNC through provision of additional funds for operation; equipment, including steady power supply; and training and/or hiring of health care personnel,

This proposed bill is also consistent with the priority of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to fully implement "The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012." Passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RUBY M. SAHALI

Representative,

Lone District – Tawi-Tawi

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Introduced by Honorable **Ruby M. Sahali**

An Act Providing for the Upgrading of facilities and skills of health providers in Barangay Health Station (BHS), Rural Health Unit (RHU), District and Community Hospitals to meet the standards of BEMONC and CEMONC in ARMM and providing funds therefor

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

SECTION 1: Upgrading of health facilities, with adequate equipment and supplies including steady power supply to meet the standards of Basic Emergency Obstetric and New Born Care (BEMONC) and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New Born Care (CEMONC);

SECTION 2: Capacity building and skills development training for health care personnel in emergency obstetric and new born care:

SECTION 3: Development of information dissemination and education programs to women in maternal health care;

SECTION 4: The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,