



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6606**



Introduced by **Representatives**
FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II and PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Siargao District Hospital, located in the Municipality of Dapa in Surigao del Norte, was meant to be a Level 1 General Hospital with a bed capacity of fifty (50). Unfortunately, however, the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte cannot provide sufficient funds for its staff, facilities and equipment. Thus, the hospital has been downgraded to an infirmary with an existing bed capacity of only thirty (30). It only has three (3) regular doctors. And while it needs thirty-six (36) nurses, it only has twenty-three (23) at the moment. The hospital needs an automated blood machine, hemo analyzer, electrolyte machine, and delivery table, among others.

The poor condition of the hospital has detrimental consequences for those living on the islands. Sometimes, emergency cases cannot be responded to adequately and residents have to go to Surigao City for proper treatment. The problem is compounded by the rise in tourists visiting the islands every year, some of whom, may also need medical attention.

As Siargao Island is being promoted as the surfing capital of the Philippines and one of the country's prime tourist destination, basic services provided to its resident, most especially health care, should also improve. The immediate passage of this bill, is therefore, earnestly sought.


PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ


FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II



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**AN ACT CONVERTING THE SIARGAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE
PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL 3 GENERAL HOSPITAL
TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIARGAO ISLANDS MEDICAL CENTER**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Siargao Islands Medical
2 Center Act.”
3

4 SEC.2. *Conversion.* – The Siargao District Hospital (“SDH”) in the Province of
5 Surigao del Norte is hereby converted into a Level 3 General Hospital to be known as the
6 Siargao Islands Medical Center (“SIMC”), and shall be under the supervision of the
7 Department of Health (DOH).
8

9 For this purpose, the bed capacity of SIMC shall be increased from fifty (50) to one
10 hundred (100) beds. The increase in bed capacity shall be implemented for a period of not
11 more than two (2) years from the approval of this Act.
12

13 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The SIMC shall pursue the following objectives:
14

- 15 (a) To provide the Filipino people, particularly in the Province of Surigao del
16 Norte, with a more affordable, quality and timely hospital care through a more
17 efficient health service delivery system that prioritizes the needs of the
18 underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, and when
19 resources are available, provide free medical care to indigent citizens;
20 (b) To develop the SIMC into a world class Level 3 General Hospital that utilizes
21 modern and advanced medical technologies;
22 (c) To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research in the prevention of
23 diseases and the care and treatment of patients and related activities, including

- 1 scholarship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and
2 conferences;
- 3 (d) To encourage and undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical
4 technicians, health officers, social workers, and other health professionals on
5 the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of health and medical
6 services, and related activities;
- 7 (e) To extend other medical services pursuant to the goals, objectives and rules of
8 the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).
9

10 SEC. 4. *Upgrade of Facilities and Services.* – The hospital facilities and services of
11 the SIMC shall be upgraded and increased to conform with and be commensurate to the
12 increase in its authorized bed capacity as provided in Section 2 of this Act, and to be consistent
13 with the requirement of modern medical services and its status as a Level 3 General Hospital.
14

15 The SIMC shall submit to the DOH its proposed hospital development plan which
16 includes the future expansion of its scope of services as a specialty hospital that specializes
17 in a particular disease or condition, or in one type of patient.
18

19 SEC. 5. *Medical Center Chief.* – The Hospital shall be headed by a Medical Center
20 Chief who is a licensed physician and with experience in hospital administration and
21 management for at least five (5) years. The Medical Center Chief shall be appointed by the
22 Secretary of Health.
23

24 SEC. 6. *Functions of the Medical Center Chief.* – The Medical Center Chief shall be
25 responsible for the following:
26

- 27 (a) Overall management and administration of the SIMC; and
28 (b) Formulation of policies, plans, programs, strategies, and its implementation to
29 ensure the provision of high quality health care and high standards of clinical
30 training for medical and allied medical personnel.
31

32 In order to ensure a smooth transition, the incumbent Chief of Hospital of the SIMC,
33 if qualified, shall assume the position of Medical Center Chief of the SIMC in an acting
34 capacity until such time that a duly qualified successor has been appointed.
35

36 SEC. 7. *Medical and Service Personnel.* – The number of medical and service
37 personnel, maintenance and other operating expenses of the SIMC shall correspondingly be
38 increased to conform with the provision in Section 2 of this Act. The Medical Center Chief
39 of the SIMC, in coordination with the DOH, the Department of Budget and Management, and
40 the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be
41 created and filled up.
42

43 SEC. 8. *Assistance from Other Government Offices.* – The SIMC may call upon any
44 department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including
45 government-owned or –controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the
46 pursuit of its objectives.
47

1 All individuals, entities and institutions are hereby enjoined to render full assistance
2 and cooperation to the SIMC in the accomplishment of its objectives and activities.

3
4 SEC. 9. *Tax Exemption.* – Any donation or bequest made to the SIMC shall be exempt
5 from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross
6 income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code
7 of 1997, as amended; *Provided*, That such donation shall be disposed of, transferred or sold.

8
9 SEC. 10. *Auditor.* – The Commission on Audit shall appoint a representative who shall
10 be the auditor of the SIMC and such personnel as may be necessary to assist said
11 representative in the performance of his duty.

12
13 SEC. 11. *Reports.* – The Medical Center Chief of the SIMC shall, within three (3)
14 months after the end of every fiscal year, submit periodic reports to the DOH as may be
15 required.

16
17 SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
18 this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter,
19 such funds as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included
20 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

21
22 SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)* – Within ninety (90) days from
23 the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the DOH, in consultation with the Secretary of the
24 DBM, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of
25 this Act.

26
27 SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the
28 remainder or any provision hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

29
30 SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and other
31 presidential issuances which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
32 modified accordingly.

33
34 SEC. 16. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
35 in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

36
37 *Approved,*