

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7708**



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Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to upgrade the facilities of the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center by increasing its bed capacity from 400 to 600.

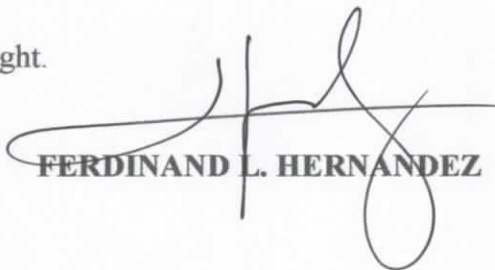
The Cotabato Regional and Medical Center ("CRMC") is the only tertiary hospital in Region XII and serves as the end referral hospital for all cases that require a higher level of treatment in the region. Initially established in 1916 as a 12-bed civilian hospital known as the Cotabato Regional Hospital, the hospital was eventually upgraded into a 400-bed capacity medical known as the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center by virtue of Republic Act No. 8316, enacted on June 30, 1997.

Several infrastructure projects were undertaken, such as the construction of the Annex Building which housed facilities the Operating Room, Delivery Room, Payward, Radiology, Emergency Room and Ortho Wards. In the ensuing years, several more hospital facilities were added, such as the Cancer Care Center, Mental Health Unit, Sewage Treatment Plant, and an Oxygen Plant. In terms of medical equipment, CRMC has acquired various state of the art machines and equipment and is capable of rendering services from MRI, CT scan, digital X-Ray, 3D Ultrasound, Genexpert Machine and EEG, Bronchoscopy, Colonoscopy, Gastrocopy, Laparoscopy, VATS, and Hysteroscopy, among others. These state of the art medical equipment and facilities, coupled with a highly trained and specialized workforce, has made the CRMC one of the most competitive medical centers in the country in terms of delivery of healthcare services.

In the last five (5) years, the CRMC has experienced an average of 9.5% yearly increase in bed occupancy rate. From an average of 227 occupied beds in 2011, the number rose to 325 in 2015. In 2016, the daily occupancy has increased to 375 and has already reached its full bed capacity in 2017.

With this upward trend in patients, an increase in the bed capacity of the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center is necessary for it to be able to serve all patients who seek medical care.

Wherefore, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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**AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE COTABATO REGIONAL  
AND MEDICAL CENTER IN COTABATO CITY, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8316, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 1, Republic Act No. 8316 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1. The Cotabato Regional Hospital in Cotabato City is hereby upgraded into a medical center, correspondingly increasing its bed capacity to six hundred (600) beds, under the supervision of the Department of Health, to be known as the ‘Cotabato Regional and Medical Center.’”

**SECTION 2.** Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3. The number of medical personnel, the budget for personnel services and maintenance and other operating expenses of the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center shall correspondingly be increased. The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created pursuant to this Act.”

**SECTION 3.** There is hereby added a new Section 4 to read as follows:

“Section 4. The increase in bed capacity of the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center from four hundred (400) to six hundred (600) beds shall be implemented immediately upon approval of this Act.”

**SECTION 4.** Section 4 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 5 and amended to read as follows:

“Section 5. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department’s programs 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 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.