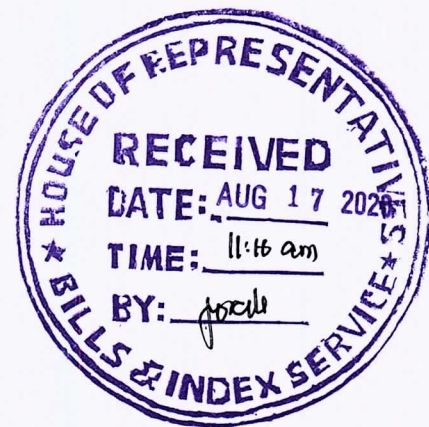


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7408



Introduced by **Deputy Speaker RANEO E. ABU**
Second District, Batangas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, through Section 15, Article II states, “the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” Likewise, Chapter 1 Section 2 of the RA 9593 also known as “The Tourism Act of 2009” declares that “The State declares that tourism is an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socioeconomic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos. Towards this end, the State shall seek to “Create a favorable image of the Philippines within the international community, thereby strengthening the country’s attraction as a tourism destination and eventually paving the way for other benefits that may result from a positive global view of the country.”

In consonance with the abovementioned provisions in the Constitution, this bill seeks to convert the Mabini Community Hospital into a Level I Specialty Tourism Hospital to be known as the Mabini Medical Tourism Hospital, and increase its bed capacity to fifty. Correspondingly, the proposed measure seeks to provide upgrade in its service facilities and professional health care, and allocate sufficient funding for the hospital.

In the governance of domestic and international tourism, health has not always been a priority in the management of a tourist destination. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are faced with the challenge of recovering the growth of eco-tourism in the country. The pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability not only of the municipality but of the country in its capacity in responding to health emergencies. It is only wise that we put health at the center of this post-pandemic tourism strategy. With this Level I Health Facility in place, the Mabini Medical Tourism Hospital can be a model in integrating health and eco-tourism development.

Anilao, Mabini is considered to be one of the top scuba diving spots in the country. Data shows that Mabini, Batangas recorded a total of 363,109 tourist arrivals in 2019, and 32,277 of which are foreign travelers. Given the nature of the tourism activities in the area, there have been several cases of physical injury and drowning. At present, the Mabini Community Hospital is an eighteen (18) bed-capacity hospital. The presence of Mabini Medical Tourism Hospital

with health specialists will increase the level of care and provide assurance in accessing safe and complete health services to tourists.

This bill is being submitted for the consideration of the Congress to promote and maintain international standards of excellence in all tourism facilities and services, and promote the country as a safe and wholesome tourist destination, particularly in Anilao, Mabini, Batangas.



RANEO E. ABU

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7408

Introduced by **Representative RANEO E. ABU**
Second District, Batangas

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE MABINI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MABINI, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS INTO A LEVEL I TOURISM SPECIALTY HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS MABINI MEDICAL TOURISM HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY TO FIFTY (50) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Mabini Community Hospital in the Municipality of Mabini, Province of Batangas is hereby converted into a Level I Hospital which shall function as a Specialty Tourism Hospital to be known as the Mabini Medical Tourism Hospital.

SECTION 2. The Mabini Medical Tourism Hospital shall have the capabilities of a Level I Hospital, increasing its bed capacity to fifty (50) beds.

SECTION 3. The existing hospital facilities and professional health care services of the hospital are hereby upgraded to conform with the bed capacity increase as provided for in Section 2 hereof. The existing workforce of the hospital shall also be correspondingly increased. The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled.

SECTION 4. The Mabini Medical Tourism Hospital shall be under the administrative control of the Department of Health. 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. The Department of Tourism shall provide technical assistance in the integration and development of tourism activities in the setting up of Mabini Medical Tourism Hospital and shall provide funding relative thereto.

SECTION 6. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Secretary of Tourism shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.