

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10377



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Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government is still battling with COVID-19 and its variants. A few months back, when the Delta Variant raged the country, the health sector almost collapsed. Many were left waiting on the side of the road, on car parks and even in their own cars to be admitted to the hospital. Others, had to commute or take a trip to far provinces just to have access to hospital services and care. In worst-case scenarios and the more unfortunate ones, had to leave this life while waiting for hospital mission in their own vehicles or along the corridors and carparks of these hospitals.

Since this pandemic primarily attacks the respiratory system, news and reports of oxygen tank and oxygen supplies ran low. With such commodity not common in the provinces, it is the people who needed it most who were struck with its insufficiency. We came to know that not all hospitals—most of them—do not have the capacity to produce their own oxygen hospital-wide and oxygen tank supplies in them were not foreseen to accommodate the huge number of cases brought about by the pandemic.

This experience we are having with the pandemic also opened our eyes that the government should have its own oxygen facilities to ensure the needs of hospitals and clinics. This is especially true with the fact that the pandemic will not be over soon.

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

**MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI**  
Representative  
Third District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AN OXYGEN PRODUCTION FACILITY IN MARAMAG, BUKIDNON,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND OTHER PURPOSES

Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Related to this is the right of the people to be provided by the State of proper health facilities and access to medical care.

Section 2. *Establishment of Oxygen Production Facility.* – An oxygen production facility is hereby established in Maramag, Bukidnon tasked to harness, produce and store medical-grade oxygen to supply the hospitals and clinics in the province for a reasonable fee.

Section 3. *Maintenance.* – The oxygen production facility shall be managed and improved by the Local Government of Maramag. Maintenance and operation to ensure medical-grade quality shall be in coordination and advisement with the Department of Health.

Section 4. *Specifications.* – The specifications for the oxygen production facility shall be provided by the Department of Health to ensure medical-grade quality.

Section 5. *Appropriations.* – The appropriations needed to establish the oxygen production facility shall be taken out of the current budget of the Department of Health. A separate budget to accomplish this endeavor to completion shall be appropriated for this purpose in the next General Appropriations Act.

Section 6. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,