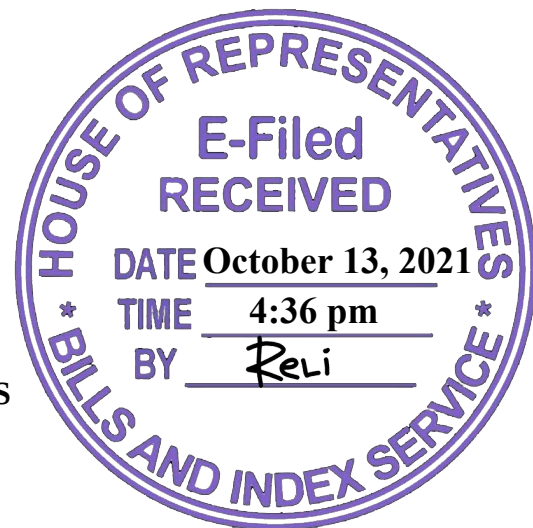




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session



## **HOUSE BILL NO. 10382**

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Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan  
and **HON. AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN** of Anak Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution, Article II, Section 15 provides that “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution further states that “The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.”

The State recognizes and guarantees the human rights of all persons including their right to health which includes access to adequate health care facilities and services, as well as appropriate State measures in relation to the socio-economic determinants of health.

The COVID-19 pandemic currently presents an unprecedented challenge to the country’s public healthcare system. The disruption is

devastating especially in Mindanao as hospitals remain at risk of being overwhelmed, following a sharp surge in hospitalizations and new cases this June as reported by the Department of Health (DOH) and OCTA Research Group.<sup>1</sup>

The DOH sets the target of one hospital bed for every 800 citizens (1:800).<sup>2</sup> In a Senate hearing last April 29, 2021, DOH Undersecretary Lilibeth David however revealed that “the Philippines only has 1.2 beds for every 1,000 people, a ratio that is comparable to the world's poorest countries.”<sup>3</sup>

In Basilan, there are currently six (6) hospitals – four (4) in Isabela City and two (2) in Lamitan City – but all remain as Level 1 hospitals and with limited capability to treat critically-ill patients. These hospitals refer those critically ill to fully equipped hospitals such as the Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC), which is only accessible via sea transfer.

The Provincial Government of Basilan reports of increasing COVID-19 cases in the province. As of October 12, 2021, the virus has so far claimed 56 lives, and infected a total of 1,799 people with 104 active cases.

Ensuring access to quality and affordable health services especially in these challenging times is the cornerstone of a vibrant and engaged citizenry. The bill therefore seeks the expansion of Basilan General Hospital into a tertiary level hospital to be known as the Basilan Medical Center (BMC). The BMC is envisioned as a premier hospital with modern facilities and state-of-

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<sup>1</sup> CNN Philippines. (13 June 2021). DOH, OCTA monitor Visayas, Mindanao over increase in COVID-19 cases. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/6/13/doh-octa-visayan-mindanao-covid-19-cases.html>

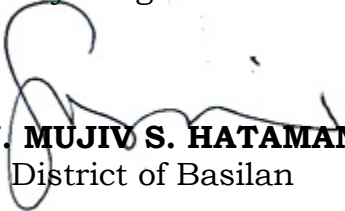
<sup>2</sup> Department of Health. (2017). Philippine Health Facility Development Plan 2017-2022. Retrieved from <https://doh.gov.ph/node/11308>

<sup>3</sup> CNN Philippines. (29 April 2021). No nearby health facility for half of Filipinos – DOH. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/29/primary-health-care-facility-access-philippines.html>

the-science medical equipment and technology providing comprehensive, quality, and affordable service through its highly skilled and competent healthcare professionals and staff.

With this measure, we endeavor to bring quality healthcare services closer not just to the Basileños but also to the whole of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi (BASULTA) region as part of further strengthening our frontlines against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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



**HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN**  
Lone District of Basilan



**HON. AMINDA J. SANGCOPAN**  
Anak Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List



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**AN ACT**

**CONVERTING THE BASILAN GENERAL HOSPITAL INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL KNOWN AS THE BASILAN MEDICAL CENTER, UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY, MODERNIZING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “*Basilan Medical Center Act.*”

SEC. 2. The Basilan General Hospital located in Isabela City, Province of Basilan is hereby converted and expanded into a tertiary level hospital to be known as Basilan Medical Center (BMC), under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health (DOH).

The authorized bed capacity of BMC is hereby increased to five hundred (500) beds. The increase in bed capacity shall be implemented for a period of two

(2) years from the approval of this Act. Any future increase in bed capacity shall be consistent with the hospital development plan and its status as tertiary hospital, which shall be prepared by the Medical Center Chief of BMC and submitted to the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 3. The existing professional health care services and facilities shall also be upgraded and increased correspondingly to conform with the increase in its authorized bed capacity as provided for in Section 2 hereof, consistent with the requirements of modern medical services and state-of-the-science equipment and technology, as reflected in the hospital development plan and its status as tertiary hospital.

SEC. 4. The existing workforce of the BMC, including doctors, nurses, and support personnel, shall also be increased correspondingly, consistent with the hospital development plan and its status as tertiary hospital.

The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and in consultation with the Medical Center Chief of BMC, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the DOH 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.

SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

***Approved,***