

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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **235**



Introduced by Representative **MARY MITZI CAJAYON-UY**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND
OPERATE MALASAKIT CENTERS THROUGH REFERRAL TO BARANGAY HEALTH
CENTERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

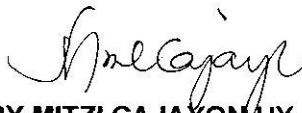
The Local Government Code of 1991 mandated the national government to devolve to the local government units (LGUs) the provision of basic services and facilities, such as health care services and facilities.¹

As the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily hit the Philippines, this put so much pressure on the health and welfare of the people. The poor suffer most due to the inconvenience and inaccessibility to the health care system.

With the enactment of the Malasakit Center Act, the Malasakit Center provides a One-Stop Shop where indigent patients can efficiently access financial medical assistance. While the national government is lauded for this promise, it through this Bill that the objective of reaching out to more communities is to be achieved.

Thus, this Bill seeks to establish, maintain and operate Malasakit Centers in every LGU through referral of the latter to the Barangay Health Centers. This way, delivery of health services to communities shall be more efficient, effective and sustainable. In the same manner, this aims to further bridge the gap between the poor communities and the health care access especially in times of the pandemic.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought


MARY MITZI CAJAYON-UY
Representative
2nd District, Caloocan City

¹ Section 17 (e) of the Local Government Code

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HEALTH CENTERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This act shall be known as the “Localized Malasakit Center Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, PhilHealth, DSWD, PCSO and DILG shall jointly issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* – Two percent (2%) of the national tax allotment of the LGUs shall be allocated for the establishment, maintenance and operation of Malasakit Centers through referral to the BHCs; Provided, that the disbursement of the fund shall be made by the LGU concerned.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other provisions hereof shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

Approved,