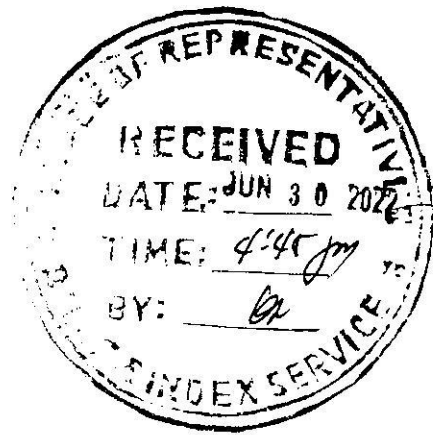


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Sessions

House Bill No. 382



Introduced by Rep. Maria Rachel J. Arenas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Art II, Sec. 15 that the "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*" Furthermore, Art. XIII, Sec II 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. 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.*"

This measure aims to establish a public hospital to be known as the **Calasiao District Hospital**, with a minimum bed capacity of one hundred (100), in the bustling municipality of Calasiao, a vibrant community of a growing population of 100, 471 based on the 2020 census. This will also address the increased demand for health and medical services of the people of Pangasinan, in general, particularly catering to those living in its most populated Third District.

The Third District of the Province of Pangasinan is composed of one (1) city and five (5) municipalities with 304 barangays and a population of over 708,000 as of 2020 Census. This population is bigger than that of 35 out of 81 provinces in the country. The proximity of Calasiao to the City of Dagupan, considered the central business and financial district of Pangasinan, has naturally transformed Calasiao, into a center of social, cultural, and commercial activities for the Third District.

The sad reality is, despite being a first-class municipality, Calasiao does not have its own hospital and the Third District is, in general, still in dire need of another district hospital for its huge population, equipped with complete health care services, with specialist doctors, and an intensive care unit. The pandemic has been a global public health challenge that exposed our systemic vulnerabilities, mainly underinvesting in public health infrastructure such as hospitals that are proportionate with the population, leaving us utterly unprepared for this pandemic.

This Bill reflects the lessons we learned from having to grapple with the Covid-19 virus, which is not our first pandemic, neither will it be the last, should nature let it happen again. This proposed piece of legislation, not only gives life to the constitutional duty of the State to provide efficient health care, but is a proactive measure to strengthen our healthcare systems.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Rachel J. Arenas', written over a horizontal line.

MARIA RACHEL J. ARENAS
Representative
Third District, Pangasinan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 382

Introduced by Rep. Maria Rachel J. Arenas

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALASIAO,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CALASIAO DISTRICT
HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established at least a two hundred (500) bed capacity, under the direct supervision of the Department of Health a District Hospital in the Municipality of Calasiao, Province of Pangasinan, in accordance with the standards of the Department of Health, to be known as the Calasiao District Hospital.

SECTION 2. Before the construction of the hospital, the Secretary of Health shall issue a written assurance that personnel of the hospital will be appointed and that funds for its maintenance and operation have been appropriated.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Health shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act within sixty (60) days from effectivity.

SECTION 4. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations authorized for the purpose under the fiscal year 2023 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the herein hospital shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. All laws, executive orders, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication the Official Gazette or in the least, two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,