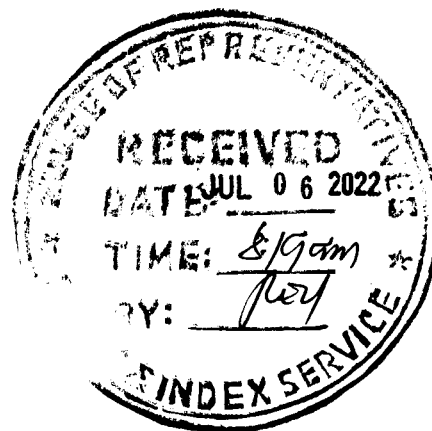


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1342**



Introduced by Rep. LORETO B. ACHARON

AN ACT

UPGRADING THE DR. JORGE P. ROYECA CITY HOSPITAL IN THE LONE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS INTO A LEVEL III GENERAL HOSPITAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE DR. JORGE P. ROYECA MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15 ARTICLE II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states and we quote, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Likewise, Section 11 ARTICLE XIII entitled Social Justice and Human Rights, "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."

The same principle relative to the Department of Health found in Section 1, Title IX, Chapter I of Executive Order No. 292, is equally defined and we quote, "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them; adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, with priority for the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children; endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost; establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system; and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems."

Towards this end, this measure is hereby proposed to provide for a cohesive, whole-of-nation approach and solutions to the continuing difficulties faced by the administration and personnel of the Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Hospital in the City of General Santos.

It is the only government hospital of its size that caters to the medical and health needs of the people of General Santos City (pop. of 697,395) and more often than not, by force of unfortunate circumstances, the alternative choice of hospital for patients coming from Saranggani Province (pop. of 558,926); and the Municipalities of Tampakan (pop. of 41,018), Tupi (pop. of 73,459) and Polomolok (pop. of 172,605).

Per record and experience, the medical facility since the advent of the passage of the Local Government Code of 1992, has failed to completely deliver on the promise of decentralization of health services from the National Government to local authorities, for the simple reason that the demand is overwhelmingly high while resources remain inadequate and short.

By upgrading the medical facility to Level III under the management, operational control, supervision, administration, and all that such entails, of the Department of Health, the State will be able to respond appropriately, provide quality and efficient health care services, support and effectively complement the government's universal health care agenda under Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as the "ACT INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

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



LORETO B. ACHARON

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

SECTION 1. The Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Hospital in the City of General Santos is hereby upgraded into a Level III general hospital to be known as the Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Memorial Medical Center under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health (DOH).

The bed capacity of the Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Memorial Medical Center in the City of General Santos shall be implemented in accordance with the hospital development plan that shall be prepared by the DOH.

SEC. 2. The existing professional health care services and facilities are also hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the bed capacity increase as provided in Section I hereof.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall prepare the implementing rules and regulations upon consultation with the City Government of General Santos and other stakeholders and shall be implemented consistent with the hospital development plan.

SEC. 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.