

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2472



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE LIANDA B. BOLILIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These roles of the State as stated in the Constitution provide justification for government intervention in or regulation of the health sector. Health is a public good and access to healthcare must be distributed equitably to the whole population. Moreover, the Universal Health Care Act (UHCA) of 2018 ensures that healthcare must be provided to all Filipinos and prioritizes the needs of those who cannot afford health services.

Cognizant of the above considerations, this proposed measure aims to establish a medical center, to be called the Southern Tagalog Medical Center, with modern technology, departmentalized clinical services and capable of treating large numbers of kinds of diseases and dysfunctions. It will be located in the Fourth District of Batangas in the Municipality of Ibaan. The new Level II hospital will serve the needs not only of the Province of Batangas, but also of the nearby provinces of Cavite, Quezon, Laguna, and Mindoro.

The following table shows the health facilities in Region IV-A and Region IV-B, 2018¹:

Region	Government beds	Private beds	Total	Bed ratio to population
IV-A CALABARZON	2969	8363	11,332	1:1,272
IV-B MIMAROPA	920	457	1,377	1:2,152

The number of hospital beds is a good indicator of health service availability. Per World Health Organization recommendation, the hospital bed to population ratio should be 1:500 for developing countries like the Philippines. The actual ratio in Regions IV-A and B is far behind the WHO recommendation and the current target of the DOH of 1:800. The

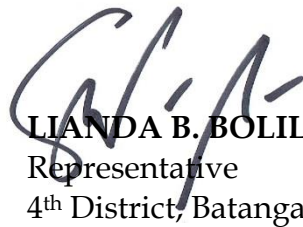
¹ DOH. Philippine Hospital Development Plan of DOH 2017-2022.

gap can be attributed to inadequate health facilities, population increase, and fragmentation of health service delivery system.

The table also shows the distribution of private and hospital beds in the two regions. There are more private beds in Region IV-A, which means more out-of-pocket expenses for patients. Majority of Filipinos specifically the low-income households prefer to seek treatment in a government hospital. Affordability is the main reason for going to a government health facility, while excellent service is the main reason for going to a private medical facility.

Moreover, the lack of adequate healthcare facility in Region IV-B in terms of bed capacity pushes the patients of MIMAROPA, specifically Mindoro, to seek treatment in Batangas. The overflow of patients from nearby provinces indicates a need for more government hospitals that have affordable services. Batangas is one that could possibly provide hospital services for this catchment area. Hence, the need to establish a bigger/apex hospital.

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



LIANDA B. BOLILIA
Representative
4th District, Batangas

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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG MEDICAL CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF IBAAN, FOURTH DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF
BATANGAS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION. 1.** There shall be established, under the direct supervision of the
2 Department of Health, a two hundred (200) bed capacity, Level-II in the Municipality
3 of Ibaan, Fourth District of the Province of Batangas, to be known as the Southern
4 Tagalog Medical Center.

5
6 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health shall provide funding for the establishment
7 and operation of the Southern Tagalog Medical Center. The Secretary of Health shall
8 include in the Department's budget the appropriate capital outlay for the hospital
9 construction and equipment requirements, and adequate funds of the facility
10 thereafter.

11
12 **SECTION 3.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of
13 Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
14 implementation of this Act.

15
16 **SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
17 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18
19 Approved,