

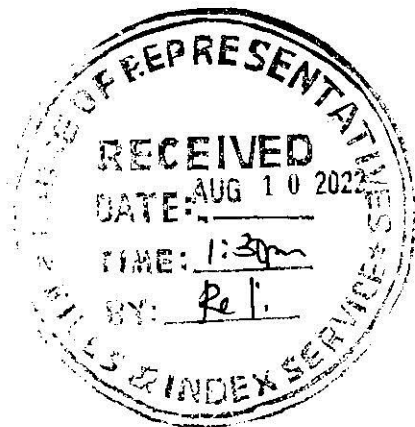


Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Batasan Hills, Quezon City
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3452



Introduced by Representative **Florencio Gabriel "Bem" G. Noel** and Representative **Josephine Veronique "Jaye" Lacson-Noel**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

ARTICLE XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"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 under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children."

Eastern Visayas is among the poorest regions in the Philippines.¹ Along with poverty, it contends with lack of infrastructure and social services, including hospitals. Using an ideal bed-to-population ratio, the region still needs an additional 2,850 hospital beds for its 4.44 million population (PSA, 2015).² The region has a combined hospital bed capacity of 2,700 (PhilHealth).

This bill seeks to establish a satellite hospital under the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC), which in turn is under the full and direct control, supervision and management of the Department of Health. This is proposed to be located in the Municipality of Catarman, Northern Samar.

The proposed EVRMC-Catarman will ensure that the region will be able to comply with the mandate of the recently passed Universal Health Care Act. It will effectively help close the gap in the region's hospital bed capacity as well as ensure wider access to affordable and quality healthcare services particularly in Northern Samar and the northernmost portions of Samar and Eastern Samar.

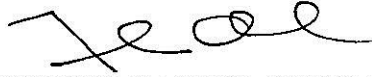
Clearly, there is much to be done. Inaccessibility of hospitals—both in costs and distance—contributes to deaths and prolonged illnesses in the region. Climate-related health risks can also lead to new challenges and emerging diseases. It is therefore crucial that Northern

¹ Meninano, Sarwell. "3 of 10 Families in Eastern Visayas Poor in 2021: Report" Philippine News Agency, 03 February 2022, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1166961>, Accessed 05 August 2022.

² EVRMC is currently co-establishing an extension facility in Villaba, Leyte while the establishment of a new Samar Island Medical Center is also ongoing. Nevertheless, even with these upcoming hospitals, a new hospital in Northern Samar will still be urgent in addressing the health requirements of the people in the region to conform to an 'ideal' ratio of one hospital bed per 800 population (DOH). Actually, WHO recommends an even stricter ratio of 1 per 200 population (or 5 per 1,000) (DOH as cited in pwc, 2018).

Samar in particular and Eastern Visayas in general improve their healthcare services beginning with an increase in bed capacity.

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



FLORENCIO GABRIEL "BEM" G. NOEL

Representative

An-Waray Party list



JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE "JAYE" LACSON-NOEL

Representative

Malabon, Lone District



Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3452**

Introduced by Representative **Florencio Gabriel "Bem" G. Noel** and Representative **Josephine Veronique "Jaye" Lacson-Noel**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIFTY (50)-BED SATELLITE HOSPITAL OF THE
EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE EASTERN VISAYAS
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER CATARMAN SATELLITE HOSPITAL
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. *Satellite Hospital of the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center*

A fifty (50)-bed satellite hospital of the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center shall be established in the Municipality of Catarman, Northern Samar, to be known as the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center-Catarman.

Section 2. *Supervision of the Department of Health*

The Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center-Catarman shall be under direct administrative and technical supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

Section 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*

The DOH shall formulate the necessary guidelines or rules and regulations for its operation as a Level 2 hospital. The DOH shall ensure funding for the acquisition of the land on which the hospital will be established, the construction of the hospital buildings and other complementary infrastructure, facilities and medical equipment, as well as for the costs of the necessary maintenance and personnel services.

Section 4. *Appropriations and Funding*

The Secretary of Health shall immediately include the implementation of this Act in the Department's programs, the funding of which shall be charged against the current year's unappropriated balance of the DOH. An appropriation of Two hundred million pesos (P200,000,000.00) shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year succeeding the implementation of this Act, and One hundred million pesos (P 100,000,000.00) thereafter for four (4) years or until the provisions of this Act are fully implemented. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center-Catarman shall be included in the annual GAA.

Section 5. *Separability Clause*

If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts for provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause*

All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Effectivity Clause*

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,