



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 7843

Introduced by **Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre and Raul C. Tupas**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN DIONISIO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN ILOILO GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that *“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”*

Furthermore, Article XIII, Section 11 of the same further emphasizes 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.”* Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, the government must continuously exert efforts in ensuring quality and accessible health care for its people.

This bill seeks to establish a tertiary hospital under the full and direct control, supervision and management of the Department of Health to be known as the Northern Iloilo General Hospital located in San Dionisio, Iloilo.

The opening of the Northern Iloilo General Hospital will complement and operationalize Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act as it would serve as an End Referral Hospital in the Fifth District of Iloilo¹ catering to the patients of the Gov. Niel D. Tupas Sr. District Hospital, Sara District Hospital, and Jesus M. Colmenares District Hospital, all of which are Level I hospitals.

The bed occupancy rate of Fifth District Hospitals for the period 2019-2021 are provided as follow (Hospital Management Office, Province of Iloilo):

Hospital	2019		2020		2021	
	Authorized Bed Capacity	Bed Occupancy Rate	Authorized Bed Capacity	Bed Occupancy Rate	Authorized Bed Capacity	Bed Occupancy Rate
Sara District Hospital, Sara	50	309	50	140	50	86

¹ The Fifth District of Iloilo is comprised of eleven municipalities namely, Ajuy, Balasan, Barotac Viejo, Batad, Carles, Concepcion, Estancia, Lemery, San Dionisio, San Rafael, and Sara.

Jesus M. Colmenares District Hospital, Balasan	50	624	50	257	73	70.71
Gov. Niel D. Tupas Sr. District Hospital, Barotac Viejo	10	157.23	25	74.56	25	55.03

For the year 2021, the leading causes of referrals and morbidity for the three district hospitals are the following (Hospital Management Office, Province of Iloilo):

Hospital	Leading Causes of Referrals	Leading Causes of Morbidity
Gov. Niel D. Tupas Sr. District Hospital, Barotac Viejo	Community acquired pneumonia Leptospirosis Pulmonary tuberculosis Cardiovascular disease infarct Acute tonsilopharyngitis Central nervous system infection Hypoglycemia Abortion Upper gastrointestinal bleeding Vulvar hemorrhage	Community acquired pneumonia Acute gastroenteritis Acute gastritis Cardiovascular disease Pulmonary tuberculosis Urinary tract infection Benign febrile seizure Upper gastrointestinal bleeding Bronchial asthma Hypertension
Sara District Hospital, Sara	Intrauterine pregnancy with complications Pneumonia Appendicitis Head injury secondary to vehicular accident/fall CVA/Stroke Hypertensive cardiovascular disease Meningitis CoVid 19 infection Acute Abdomen Congestive heart failure	CoVid 19 infection Urinary tract infection Pneumonia Acute gastroenteritis Gastritis Hypertension Hypertensive cardiovascular disease Pulmonary tuberculosis Non ulcerative dyspepsis Diabetes mellitus
Jesus M. Colmenares District Hospital, Balasan	Covid 19 infection Cerebrovascular infection Pneumonia Intestinal obstruction Acute appendicitis Tuberculosis meningitis Tetanus stage Burns Obstruction uropathy Lacerated wound	Pneumonia Sepsis neonatorum CoVid 19 Acute gastroenteritis Acute gastritis Cerebrovascular disease Dengue fever Urinary tract infection Hypertension Sepsis/septicemia

The general hospital will serve indigent patients coming from the Province of Iloilo and from the nearby municipalities of Capiz. The hospital will also decongest regional hospitals all of which are located in the City of Iloilo and bring essential medical health services closer to patients coming from the Fifth District of Iloilo which is the biggest district in the Province of Iloilo in terms of the number of constituents with a population of 472,661 (based on PSA census of 01 May 2020). At present, referred patients coming from the District will have to travel some 2 to 3 hours to go to the city hospitals. Patients coming from the island barangays will have to travel longer since going to the mainland alone will account for half day travel by

boat on good weather. There are occasions when due to high occupancy rate , patients will not be readily accommodated or even refused admission.

While there are three district hospitals in the district, the need for a general hospital becomes imperative as we embark on the full operationalization of Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act. The challenges brought by the CoVid 19 pandemic teaches us to invest more on health facilities. The City of Iloilo for example with a population of 456,626 (based on PSA census of 01 May 2020) has 6 private hospitals aside from the regional and provincial hospitals present in the area. The proposed general hospital will complement the existing district hospitals, expand medical services, and address specialized cases.

The general hospital will also complement the promotion of various tourist destinations in the district. It will be reassuring to tourists, both domestic and foreign, that medical facilities are available in times of emergencies. Learning from the experiences of the CoVid-19 pandemic, the expansion of medical services is critically important in the reopening of borders and gradual travel resumption to tourist areas.

The bill will contribute in the expansion of public access to quality and affordable health care as well as encourage our people to seek hospital treatments especially now that we are living in the new normal.

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



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There shall be established a general hospital in the Municipality of San
2 Dionisio, Province of Iloilo to be known as the Northern Iloilo General Hospital, which
3 shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

4
5 **SECTION 2.** The DOH shall develop a hospital development plan to define the service
6 capacity, developmental goals and targets of the hospital. Any future increase in bed
7 capacity and upgrading of health care facilities, service capability, and human resource
8 complement shall be based on the hospital development plan.

9
10 **SECTION 3.** The site of the hospital shall be in the Municipality of San Dionisio, Province
11 of Iloilo.

12
13 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's
14 program the implementation of this Act. The amount of Nine Hundred Million Pesos
15 (Php 900,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the implementation of this Act which
16 shall be included and funded under the General Appropriations Act under the Health
17 Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be
18 necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General
19 Appropriations Act.

20 **SECTION 5.** If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the
21 remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

22

23 **SECTION 6.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent
24 with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

25

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

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29 Approved,