

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 384



Introduced by **Representative FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

AN ACT
UPGRADING THE SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO,
INTO A LEVEL III HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE
SOCCSKSARGEN MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII 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 underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

In line with this constitutional mandate and in the interest of strengthening and improving the delivery of health care services in the Province of South Cotabato and in the SOCCSKSARGEN Region, this representation proposes this legislative measure which seeks to upgrade the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato into a Level III Hospital, and to be known as the SOCCSKSARGEN Medical Center.

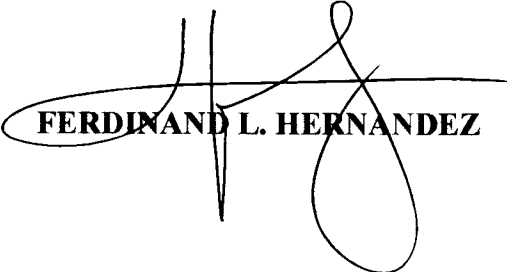
The proposed measure aims to elevate the status of the hospital to a Level III medical facility under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), increasing its Authorized Bed Capacity (ABC) to five hundred (500) to one thousand (1000) beds, enhancing its health care services and infrastructure, and expanding its workforce to provide more comprehensive, specialized, and accessible medical care to the public.

For the longest time, Region XII has been deprived of public medical resources, which can be attributed to the absence of a dedicated regional hospital within its territory. The

Cotabato Regional Medical Center (CRMC) is located outside of the region and it primarily serves the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). As a result, the residents of Region XII are left with limited and impractical options for specialized or advanced treatment. With no regional hospital to call its own, Region XII faces a serious healthcare gap.

This initiative seeks to respond to this urgent need for improved public health care services in Region XII by addressing the growing health care demand, improving access to specialized medical services, and promoting the equitable delivery of quality health care for all. The proposed upgrading of SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital into a Medical Center will also generate employment and economic opportunities, and ultimately boost the region's medical tourism potential.

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



FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 884

Introduced by **Representative FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

AN ACT
UPGRADING THE SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO,
INTO A LEVEL III HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE
SOCCSKSARGEN MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, is hereby upgraded into a Level III hospital to be known as the SOCCSKSARGEN Medical Center (SMC), which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 2. The authorized bed capacity of the SOCCSKSARGEN Medical Center shall be increased to five hundred (500) to one thousand (1,000) beds.

SEC. 3. The existing professional health care services and facilities of the SOCCSKSARGEN Medical Center shall also be upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to its upgrading as a Level III hospital and the increase in bed capacity as provided for in Sections 1 and 2 hereof.

SEC. 4. The existing workforce of the SOCCSKSARGEN Medical Center, which includes doctors, nurses, and support personnel, shall be increased correspondingly.

The Secretary of Health shall, after consultation with the Medical Center Chief of the SOCCSKSARGEN Medical Center, and in coordination with the Secretary of Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), determine the additional new positions to be created.

SEC. 5. *Appropriation.* - The Secretary of Health shall immediately 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. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,