

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1307



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Introduced by Representative Stephen James T. Tan

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF MATUGUINAO RURAL**  
**HEALTH UNIT INTO A SUPER HEALTH CENTER IN MATUGUINAO, SAMAR,**  
**UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**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 thereof also provides 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 a priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.*”

Currently, Samar has seven (7) hospitals, three (3) infirmaries<sup>1</sup>, and 30 rural health units. The hospital bed-to-population ratio is 1:2,514 while the rural health units-to-population ratio is 1:21,371.<sup>2</sup> This is extremely problematic as per the Department of Health – to meet the health needs of the population, the current supply of hospital beds must increase to 2.7 per 1,000 population.<sup>3</sup> Health stations, Rural Health Units (RHUs), and Health Centers (HCs) are supposedly the entry points of individuals, families, and communities into the health system. In practice, however, patients go directly to hospitals and other specialized clinics, resulting in large health system inefficiencies.

Thus, this bill seeks to rehabilitate, upgrade and convert Matuguinao Rural Health Unit into a modern Super Health Center that will cater to the medical needs of the residents and its neighboring towns. This bill aims to provide a higher standard of care than a regular rural health center meant to address the demands of the community considering the ongoing public health issues, such as lack of access to better healthcare facilities, and prevent the rise in hospital occupancy in regional hospitals.

  
**STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ro8.doh.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/HOSPITAL-and-INFIRMARY-REGION-8.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Province of Samar: Social Services*. Samar News. <https://samar.lgu-ph.com/socialservice.htm> Accessed on 25 October 2022

<sup>3</sup> Department of Health. (2020). *Philippine Health Facility Development Plan 2020- 2040*. Manila, Philippines: Department of Health.  
[https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/DOH\\_PHILIPPINE%20HEALTH%20FACILITY%20DEVELOPMENT%20PLAN%202020\\_2040\\_0.pdf](https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/DOH_PHILIPPINE%20HEALTH%20FACILITY%20DEVELOPMENT%20PLAN%202020_2040_0.pdf)

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “***Matuguinao Super Health Center Act***”.

**SECTION 2. *State Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall adopt a people-oriented approach to the delivery of health services that are centered on people’s needs and well-being.

**SECTION 4. *Facilities and Services.*** - The Super Health Center will have amenities and facilities that will cater to basic tests and the primary care needs of the residents and its neighboring towns which include, among others, outpatient department, laboratory, x-ray, ultrasound, birthing services, dental, diagnostic, pharmacy, and emergency services.

**SECTION 5. *Matuguinao Super Health Center.*** - The modernization project of Matuguinao Rural Health Unit into a Super Health Center shall be under the Department of Health's Health Facilities Enhancement Program.

**SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year of its enactment and every year thereafter.

**SECTION 7. *Implementation.*** - The DOH, in consultation and coordination with other concerned agencies, shall formulate, identify, and promulgate the implementing guidelines, rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,