

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 1953**



Introduced by Representative CIRIACO B. GATO, JR., M.D., FPSO-HNS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to re-nationalize Itbayat District Hospital in the province of Batanes pursuant to the Constitutional mandate of the State to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino and make essential goods, health and other services available to all.

The Municipality of Itbayat is one of the most geographically-isolated and remote municipalities in the Philippines. Located in the northernmost part of the country, Itbayat is accessible only through sea or air travel, both of which are often limited by weather and logistical constraints. These factors severely affect the availability and accessibility of essential health services for its residents.

Currently, the Itbayat District Hospital operates under the management of the Provincial Government of Batanes. However, it faces persistent limitations in funding, staffing, medical equipment, and infrastructure upgrades. This has prevented the hospital from fully meeting the needs of Itbayat's population, particularly in times of medical emergencies, disasters, and outbreaks.

The reversion to the national government will allow the hospital to benefit from direct national funding through the General Appropriations Act; receive necessary infrastructure, facility, and equipment upgrades; improve its workforce capacity by hiring DOH-deployed healthcare professionals and specialists; and provide essential health services including basic medical, surgical, maternity, laboratory, and pharmacy services. It will ensure that Itbayat, despite its remote and isolated location, will receive the health services its people deserve—services that are timely, sufficient, and nationally supported.

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

CIRIACO B. GATO, JR., M.D., FPSO-HNS

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**AN ACT RE-NATIONALIZING THE ITBAYAT DISTRICT HOSPITAL LOCATED
IN THE PROVINCE OF BATANES, PLACING IT UNDER THE DIRECT
CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, AND SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 “Re-nationalization of the Itbayat District Hospital Act.”

SECTION 2. Re-nationalization of the Itbayat District Hospital. The management, operation, and maintenance of the Itbayat District Hospital, located in the Municipality of Itbayat, Province of Batanes, is hereby reverted to the national government and placed under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), and shall be known as the “Itbayat General Hospital”

SECTION 3. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation, maintenance, and upgrading of the Itbayat District Hospital shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days after the enactment of this Act, the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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

Approved,