

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2538**



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samantha Taliño Santos

AN ACT UPGRADING, MODERNIZING, AND CONVERTING THE COTABATO PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO INTO THE COTABATO PROVINCE REGIONAL HOSPITAL, PLACING IT UNDER THE CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, AND SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is enshrined in Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which mandates the State to “protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” In pursuit of this constitutional mandate, the government has consistently enacted measures to upgrade, modernize, and expand public health facilities across the country.

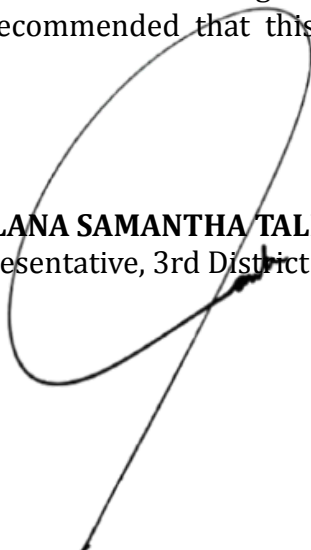
The Cotabato Provincial Hospital, established as a key health institution in the Province of Cotabato, has long served as a primary provider of medical care to the province’s growing population. However, with the increasing demand for quality health services, the hospital’s current capacity and facilities have become inadequate to meet the needs of its constituents. The last legislative upgrade, under Republic Act No. 7361 (1992), increased its bed capacity from fifty (50) to one hundred (100) beds. Since then, the province’s population and health care needs have significantly expanded, necessitating further enhancement of the hospital’s capacity and services.

Recent legislative measures, such as Republic Act No. 11391 (2019) and Republic Act No. 11715 (2022), have demonstrated the government’s commitment to upgrading and modernizing hospitals in Mindanao and other regions, ensuring that health facilities are equipped to provide comprehensive and quality care. These laws have provided for increased bed capacity, modernization of facilities, and the transfer of management to the Department of Health (DOH), resulting in improved health outcomes for the communities they serve.

This bill seeks to upgrade, modernize, and convert the Cotabato Provincial Hospital into the Cotabato Province Regional Hospital, increasing its authorized bed capacity to three hundred (300) and elevating its status to a tertiary-level hospital under the direct control, management, and supervision of the DOH. The proposed measure will ensure that the hospital is equipped with the necessary infrastructure, human resources, and professional health care services to address the complex health needs of the province and neighboring areas.

The enactment of this measure will not only enhance the delivery of health services in Cotabato but will also contribute to the realization of the government's goal of universal health care. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that this bill be given immediate consideration and approval.

MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
Representative, 3rd District of Cotabato

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a long, sweeping tail, is positioned over the text of the representative's name and title.

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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 “Cotabato Province Regional Hospital Act.”

Section 2. **Definition of Terms.** — For purposes of this Act:

(a) “Regional Hospital” refers to a tertiary-level government hospital providing comprehensive health care services.

(b) “Tertiary Level” refers to the highest level of hospital care as defined by the Department of Health (DOH).

Section 3. **Upgrade to Regional Hospital.** — The Cotabato Provincial Hospital is hereby upgraded, modernized, and converted into a regional hospital, to be known as the Cotabato Province Regional Hospital.

Section 4. **Bed Capacity, Health Care Services, and Facilities.** — The authorized bed capacity shall be increased to three hundred (300) beds, with the capability of a tertiary-level hospital. The hospital’s professional health care services and facilities shall be upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to its bed capacity, consistent with its development plan.

Section 5. **Control and Supervision.** — Upon its upgrading and modernization, the Cotabato Province Regional Hospital shall be under the direct control, management, and supervision of the DOH.

Section 6. ***Plantilla Positions and Human Resources.*** — The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and in consultation with the hospital's management, shall determine the necessary human resources and additional plantilla positions to be created and filled in the hospital workforce within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 7. ***Hospital Development Plan.*** — The Chief of Hospital shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, submit to the DOH a hospital development plan reflecting the developmental plans of the hospital, capital outlay investments, staffing requirements, and budgetary needs, consistent with the increase in bed capacity and service capability.

Section 8. ***Appropriations.*** — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter. The DOH may use its current appropriations for the initial implementation of this Act.

Section 9. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — The DOH, in consultation with the DBM, CSC, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

Section 10. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. ***Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 12. ***Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,