

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2620**



Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

AN ACT CONVERTING THE COTABATO PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF KIDAPAWAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL REGIONAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE COTABATO REGIONAL HOSPITAL, UPGRADING ITS CAPACITY, MODERNIZING ITS FACILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public health is key to sustainable national development. Thus, the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people.¹ Because of the increasing population, however, healthcare facilities have difficulties addressing patients' needs, such as accommodation, special equipment and facilities for complex illnesses and diseases. Among the provinces of Region XII, North Cotabato has the highest population, but it does not have a Level III hospital.² This means that no hospital in North Cotabato can provide healthcare services that only a Level III hospital provides like; (1) Teaching/training, (2) Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit, (3) Ambulatory Surgical Clinic, (4) Dialysis Unit, (5) Tertiary Clinical Laboratory with Histopathology, (6) Blood Bank, and (7) 3rd Level X-Ray.³ There is an urgency in Cotabato Province to increase the accommodation capacity of hospitals and to add better healthcare facilities and equipment.

This bill seeks to upgrade the Cotabato Provincial Hospital located in the City of Kidapawan, Province of Cotabato into a tertiary level regional hospital and to be known as the Cotabato Regional Hospital (CRH). CRH aims to have at least three hundred (300) authorized bed capacity and upgraded facilities; including buildings, structures, and equipment used for healthcare service. This bill will provide better and more accessible healthcare services to the people whose rights have been previously limited by a lack of healthcare capacity and equipment.

Hon. Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.
Representative 1st District of Cotabato

¹ Section 15, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² 2022 Annual Report of the Philippine Health Statistics, Table 2: Estimated Population by Region, Province and City, Philippines, 2022, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. Available at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nFZm7Y5VJzuRMNDumk8t9JSPuFsp-nDs/view> (Accessed: 23 June 2025)

³ Revised Organizational Structure and Staffing Standards for Level III General Government Hospitals (2022), DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT. Available at:

<https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Issuances/2022/Joint-Circular/Revised-Organizational-Structure-and-Staffing-Standards-for-Level-III-General-Government-Hospitals.pdf> (Accessed: 23 June 2025).

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

Section 1. ***Upgrade to Regional Hospital.*** - The Cotabato Provincial Hospital located in the City of Kidapawan, Province of Cotabato, is hereby upgraded into a tertiary level regional hospital to be known as the Cotabato Regional Hospital (CRH), which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

Section 2. ***Bed Capacity, Health Care Personnel and Services, and Facilities.*** - The authorized bed capacity shall be upgraded to three hundred (300) with the capability of a tertiary level hospital. The authorized bed capacity of the CRH shall be upgraded to three hundred (300) beds with a concomitant increase in doctors, nurses, medical staff, and other support personnel. To complement the increase in capacity, facilities, including buildings, structures, and equipment used for healthcare service, shall likewise be upgraded and increased to conform with and be commensurate with its bed capacity, consistent with the hospital's development plan. Any future increase in bed capacity shall be consistent with the hospital development plan prepared by the Chief of Hospital of the CRH and submitted to the DOH.

Section 3. ***National Supervision*** - Upon its upgrading and modernization, the Cotabato Province Regional Hospital shall be under the direct control, management, and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

Section 4. ***Plantilla Positions and Human Resources.*** - The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Office of the Governor of Cotabato Province, and consultation with the hospital's management, shall determine the human resources and additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up in the workforce of the said hospital under Section 2 of this Act.

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Section 5. ***Hospital Development Plan.*** - The Chief of Hospital shall develop a hospital development plan to be submitted to the DOH reflecting therein 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 6. ***General 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.

Section 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DOH shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 8. ***Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 9. ***Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,