

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3644



Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The province of Camarines Sur, composed of 35 municipalities and two cities, is the largest in the Bicol Region in both land area and population. According to the 2020 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the province has a total population of 2,068,244.¹ As the population continues to grow, so too does the demand for sufficient and responsive government services, especially in the critical sector of healthcare.

Currently, the primary public health facility serving the province is the Bicol Medical Center (BMC) in Naga City. Although BMC has been designated as a regional hospital serving the entire Bicol Region, with a population of over 6 million,² its capacity and reach remain insufficient to meet the expanding needs of the population. In recognition of this challenge, Republic Act No. 11478, enacted in July 2020, increased BMC's bed capacity from 500 to 1,000 beds.³ However, the demand for specialized services, particularly in the fields of obstetrics, gynecology, and pediatrics, continues to outpace supply, leaving many underserved, especially in the Rinconada district.

To address this persistent healthcare gap, this bill proposes the establishment of a 200-bed capacity facility in the Municipality of Nabua, to be known as the Rinconada Women's and Children's Hospital. The hospital will specialize in women's and children's health services including prenatal testing, obstetric and gynecologic care, pediatrics, neonatal care, lactation and nutrition support, immunization services, postpartum mental health care, and health education programs for mothers and families.

The location of Nabua, being centrally situated in the Rinconada area, makes it a strategic site for serving not only its own residents but also those from neighboring municipalities. The proposed hospital will operate under the direct supervision of the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur, with capital outlay support from the Department of Health, ensuring localized governance and sustainable service delivery.

This legislative measure is firmly grounded in both international and domestic commitments to health and welfare. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family," and that "motherhood and childhood are entitled to

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021). 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH) Population Counts Declared Official by the President. <https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing/statistical-tables/title/2020>

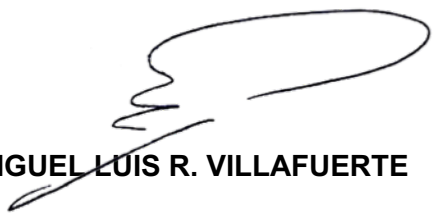
² Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021). Region V (Bicol Region): Total Population by Province, City, and Municipality. https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/ird/specialrelease/Bicol_Region_Statistical_Tables_CPH_2020.pdf

³ Republic Act No. 11478. (2020). An Act Increasing the Bed Capacity of the Bicol Medical Center in Naga City, Camarines Sur from Five Hundred (500) to One Thousand (1,000) Beds, and Appropriating Funds Therefor. https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2020/ra_11478_2020.html

special care and assistance.” Meanwhile, Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to “adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development,” with priority for “the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.”

In line with these principles, the proposed Rinconada Women’s and Children’s Hospital will be a concrete step toward decentralizing healthcare, expanding access to specialized services, and elevating the quality of maternal and child health in Camarines Sur.

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



MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3644

Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NABUA IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE RINCONADA WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established under the direct supervision of the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur, a women's and children's hospital in the Municipality of Nabua in the Province of Camarines Sur, to be known as the Rinconada Women's and Children's Hospital. It shall be authorized to operate a two hundred (200) bed capacity hospital dedicated to women's and children's health requirements.

SECTION 2. The hospital shall specialize on the care of women and children and shall focus on women and children health care, prenatal testing, obstetrics and gynecological services, pediatrics care, lactation programs, nutrition services, neonatal care, immunization services, postpartum depression support, education classes for parenting, and women's and children's health awareness.

SECTION 3. The province shall develop a hospital development plan to reflect the development goals of the hospital including its bed capacity and service capability. Request for the staffing requirements, capital outlay investments, and budgetary needs for operations shall be based on the hospital development plan.

SECTION 4. The Provincial Government of Camarines Sur shall provide funding for the establishment and operation of the Rinconada Women's and Children's Hospital. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's subsidy program, support for the capital outlays of the said hospital.

SECTION 5. If any provisions or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,