

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

**TWENTIETH (20TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 5254



Introduced by Representative Joseph Salvador Tan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality health care is a fundamental right of every Filipino. Yet for many communities, especially in the provinces, this right is often compromised by the lack of adequate medical facilities and resources.

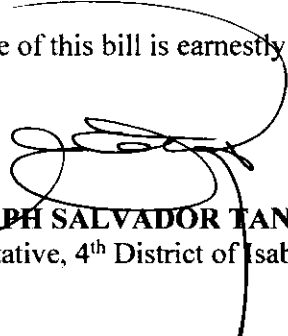
The Southern Isabela Medical Center (SIMC), located in Santiago City, serves as the premier government hospital in the southern part of Isabela. It caters to residents of Isabela and patients from neighboring provinces in Region II. Over the years, the demand for its services has grown exponentially due to the increasing population and the hospital's role as a referral center for critical and specialized cases.

At present, SIMC has an authorized bed capacity of only 350 beds. This number is no longer sufficient to meet the healthcare needs of the communities it serves. The hospital has been operating beyond capacity, resulting in patients being accommodated in hallways, waiting longer for admission, or being referred to far-flung hospitals. Such a situation not only endangers lives but also places an undue burden on families already in distress.

To address this urgent concern, this measure seeks to expand the authorized bed capacity of SIMC from 350 to 700 beds. This proposed expansion will ensure that the hospital can adequately serve its catchment population, provide more space for patients, and allow the hiring of additional doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals. It will also pave the way for upgrading the hospital's facilities, services, and equipment, bringing healthcare closer to the standards required by our times.

By approving this measure, Congress will not only provide relief to the overburdened healthcare system in Isabela but will also send a strong message that government is committed to making health a true priority for every Filipino family.

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


JOSEPH SALVADOR TAN
Representative, 4th District of Isabela

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AN ACT

INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SOUTHERN ISABELA MEDICAL CENTER IN SANTIAGO CITY, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, FROM THREE HUNDRED FIFTY (350) TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700) BEDS, AND INCREASING ITS MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

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

SECTION 1. Bed Capacity Increase. — The authorized bed capacity of the Southern Isabela Medical Center in Santiago City, Province of Isabela, is hereby increased from three hundred fifty (350) to seven hundred (700) beds.

SEC. 2. Upgrade of Services and Facilities. — The existing hospital facilities, professional health care services, and medical equipment of the Southern Isabela Medical Center shall correspondingly be upgraded and expanded to meet the requirements of the increased bed capacity.

SEC. 3. Increase in Medical Personnel. — The Department of Health (DOH) shall, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled for doctors, nurses, and support staff necessary to maintain adequate health care services for the hospital's expanded capacity.

SEC. 4. Appropriations. — The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the necessary funding requirements for the implementation of this Act. The funding shall thereafter be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The DOH, in consultation with concerned stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,