

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6321



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
UPGRADING THE ALABAT ISLAND DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF ALABAT, PROVINCE OF QUEZON INTO A LEVEL III
GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE ALQUEREZ GENERAL HOSPITAL
UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that, "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Towards this end, this bill seeks to upgrade the Alabat Island District Hospital in Alabat, Quezon into a Level III General Hospital in order to address the medical needs of the people of the Alabat island or Alquerez (Alabat, Quezon, Perez) Inter Local Health Zone.

The Alabat Island District Hospital is a Level 1 hospital and has a bed capacity of twenty-five (25) beds. This bill seeks to increase its bed capacity amidst its growing population of 15,936 people based on the 2020 census.

Alabat is a 5th class municipality and is politically subdivided into 19 barangays with a total land area of 57.61 km² (22.24 sq mi). Like many district hospitals in the country, the Alabat Island District Hospital, currently the only available health facility in Alabat, lacks emergency medical equipment to treat complex diseases and illnesses. Most common illnesses in the municipality are acute respiratory infection, hypertension, gastritis, acute gastroenteritis, infected wounds, urinary tract infection, arthritis, and stroke. Approximately three (3) patients per month are admitted for stroke, and since there are no adequate facilities available at the Alabat Island District Hospital, the patients are required

to cross the mainland to receive the appropriate treatment.

Alabat is approximately 8.10 nautical miles from Atimonan and during emergency situations, patients are transported from the island to a secondary hospital or tertiary hospital by a hiring a small fishing boat or taking passenger vessel. Patients who require emergency treatment are transported from the island towards the mainland by a commercial vessel which runs once in an hour from 5:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Patients who need medical attention outside of this period are unable to receive treatment unless they are able to find other residents who are in possession of a fishing boat or ship or who are willing to transport the patients to the mainland. It would take about 1.5 hours to ship a patient to the mainland and emergency treatment may further be delayed if no commercial vessel or fishing boat is available. It is unfortunate that if stroke occurs after the business hours of the commercial vessel, the possibility of death becomes higher¹.

In order to conform with the policy of the State in providing quality and efficient health care services consistent with the government's universal health care agenda, the upgrading of the Alabat Island District Hospital into a level 3 general hospital is earnestly sought.



Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

¹ de la Torre, Gian Paolo, Tapan, Jerchel, Kathleen, Yoshida, Kaori. Cost-benefit Analysis of a Sea Ambulance Project in the Municipality of Alabat in Quezon Province, Philippines. Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo Economic Analysis of Public Policy 2015

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

SECTION 1. The Alabat Island District Hospital in the Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon is hereby upgraded into a Level III general hospital to be known as the Alquerez General Hospital, under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health (DOH).

The increase in the bed capacity of the Alquerez General Hospital in the Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon shall be implemented in accordance with the hospital development plan.

SEC. 2. The existing service professional health care services and facilities are also hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the bed capacity increase as provided in Section 1 hereof.

SEC. 3. The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and in consultation with the management of the hospital, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up in the workforce of the said hospital.

SEC. 4. The chief of the hospital shall develop a hospital development plan to be submitted to the DOH to reflect the development goals of the hospital, consistent with the increase in 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.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall prepare the implementing rules and regulations upon consultation with the Provincial Government of Quezon and other stakeholders and shall be implemented consistent with the hospital development plan.

SEC. 7. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,