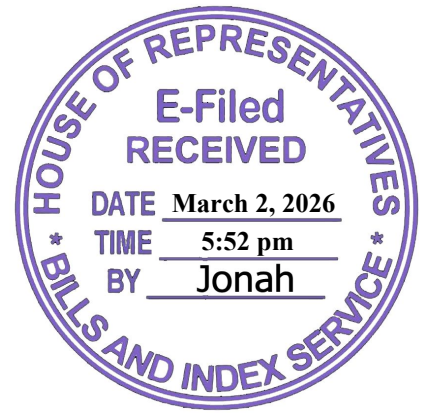


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8231**



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

AN ACT
UPGRADING THE CONRADO F. ESTRELLA REGIONAL MEDICAL AND TRAUMA
CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN INTO A LEVEL III GENERAL
HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services to all people at affordable cost (Article II, Section 15 and Article XIII, Section 11). This duty becomes more compelling in provinces where population growth and geographic vulnerabilities place greater pressure on public health facilities.

When Republic Act No. 11558, establishing a General Hospital in the Municipality of Rosales, Province of Pangasinan, known as the Conrado F. Estrella Regional Medical and Trauma Center, was enacted, the said hospital was only classified as Level II with one hundred (100) bed capacity.

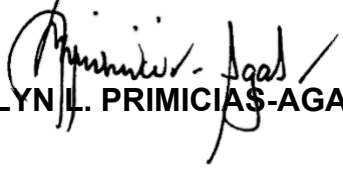
Since its establishment, Conrado F. Estrella Regional Medical and Trauma Center served as a principal government hospital for Pangasinan and nearby areas. Over time, patient admissions and emergency cases have steadily increased beyond its authorized capacity. Its present classification no longer corresponds to the volume and complexity of cases it handles daily.

Pangasinan's exposure to recurring flooding and other emergencies further underscores the need for a fully equipped, high capability regional hospital that can deliver advanced trauma services, intensive care, and subspecialty treatment without requiring patients to seek care in distant metropolitan centers. Strengthening this institution is consistent with Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care Act, which seeks, among others, to ensure a health care model that provides all Filipinos access to a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective health services.

This measure upgrades the hospital into a Level III General Hospital with a five hundred (500) bed capacity, expands its services, strengthens its workforce, and ensures the necessary infrastructure and equipment to meet regional health demands.

The passage of this bill will affirm the State's commitment to accessible, modern, and responsive public health care for the people of Pangasinan and surrounding communities.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is respectfully sought.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* Pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution, which mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, and Article XIII, Section 11 thereof, which directs the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development and make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all at affordable cost, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen government health facilities as primary instruments for the delivery of accessible, equitable, and quality medical services.

The State shall ensure that public hospitals are adequately equipped, properly staffed, and appropriately classified to respond to the growing and evolving health needs of their respective service areas. Regional referral hospitals shall be progressively developed to reduce health inequities, decongest metropolitan medical centers, and guarantee timely access to specialized and emergency care.

SECTION 2. *Upgrading of the Hospital.* The Conrado F. Estrella Regional Medical and Trauma Center located in the Municipality of Rosales, Province of Pangasinan is hereby upgraded into a Level III General Hospital under the supervision and control of the Department of Health.

SECTION 3. *Increase in Authorized Bed Capacity.* The authorized bed capacity of the hospital is hereby increased to Five Hundred (500) beds. The Department of Health shall implement the increase in phases, subject to service requirements, infrastructure

readiness, and availability of funds.

SECTION 4. *Service Capability.* As a Level III General Hospital, the facility shall provide comprehensive and specialized medical services in accordance with Department of Health standards, including but not limited to:

- (a) Subspecialty medical and surgical services;
- (b) Expanded emergency and trauma care;
- (c) Intensive care units, including neonatal and pediatric intensive care;
- (d) Advanced diagnostic, laboratory, and imaging services;
- (e) Renal care and other life sustaining treatment services; and
- (f) Other specialty services necessary to address the needs of its catchment population and as may be determined necessary by the Department of Health.

SECTION 5. *Infrastructure and Equipment.* The Department of Health shall undertake the construction, expansion, renovation, and modernization of the hospital facilities required to comply with Level III General Hospital standards. Appropriate medical equipment and technology shall be provided to enable the delivery of advanced and critical care services. Infrastructure improvements shall incorporate disaster resilience and emergency preparedness features.

SECTION 6. *Human Resource Complement.* The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission, shall create and fill additional plantilla positions necessary to support the upgraded bed capacity and expanded services. The staffing pattern shall ensure an adequate number of medical specialists, nurses, allied health professionals, and support personnel consistent with Level III standards.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the hospital under the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,