EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Second Regular Session

THE SECRETARY OF THE SE

SENATE

S. No. 2033

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT

RENAMING THE EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, PROVINCE OF LEYTE INTO EASTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 15 of our Constitution provides, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." It is therefore imperative for the government to ensure adequate and functioning public health infrastructure in order to serve the medical needs of the general public.

One of the immediate and pragmatic solutions to the lack of health facilities in the regions is by expanding the current capacity of our existing hospitals, enhancing the efficiency in the delivery of health services, and strengthening linkages and partnerships between facilities. We have seen how the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center in Tacloban, Leyte has played a crucial role in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. It serves as a Covid-19 testing and treatment hub not only in the region, as it assists other patients and hospitals from the Bicol region.

This measure seeks to increase the bed capacity of EVMC from 500 to 1,500 and upgrade its professional health services and facilities, in order to address the health concerns of more residents in the region.

In this light, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

- Section 1. The Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center in the City of Tacloban, Province of Leyte, is hereby renamed Eastern Visayas Medical Center (EVMC).
- Sec. 2. The bed capacity of the EVMC shall be increased from five hundred (500) to one thousand five hundred (1,500) beds. Any future increase in bed capacity shall be consistent with the hospital development plan which shall be prepared by the Department of Health (DOH).
 - Sec. 3. The existing professional health care services and facilities of the EVMC are also upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the increase in bed capacity as provided for in Section 2 hereof.
 - Sec. 4. The existing workforce of the EVMC, which includes doctors, nurses, and support personnel, shall also be increased correspondingly. The Secretary of the DOH shall, after consultation with the Chief of the EVMC, and in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management and the Commissioner of the Civil Service Commission, determine the additional new positions to be created and filled up.

- Sec. 5. The Secretary of the DOH shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,