

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

23 JUL 13 A11 :56

SENATE  
S.B. No. 2305

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
**IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASILISA, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS,**  
**AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to healthcare is a fundamental right for every Philippine Citizen. Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution states 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." However, the Municipality of Basilisa has faced, and continues to encounter, significant challenges in providing adequate and accessible healthcare institutions for its residents. The lack of a Level II General Hospital, or any ample medical establishments for that matter, has forced the people of the Dinagat Islands to travel many hours in order to seek help, mostly travelling by boat. Therefore, it is of most vital importance that we aid these citizens and fulfill their medical needs on the same island as where they reside.

The establishment of a Level II General Hospital in Basilisa will significantly enhance the availability and accessibility of healthcare services in the region. The hospital will provide a comprehensive range of services such as an Adult Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care, and a High-risk Pregnancy Unit with a surgically-capable team to handle trauma cases and operate caesarean sections; being the only facility on the island to have said services. This ensures that residents can have a diverse array of medical complications treated at the hospital.

As it stands, the closest governmental hospital which the critically ill people of Basilisa refuge to is Caraga Regional Hospital located in Surigao City, a part of a whole new province all-together. Whereas, patients in need of specialized surgery voyage to the Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao city, taking up to 8 hours.

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<sup>1</sup> The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines. Accessed online on 11 July 2023 through the website <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/constitutions/the-1987-constitution-of-the-republic-of-the-philippines/the-1987-constitution-of-the-republic-of-the-philippines-article-xiii/>

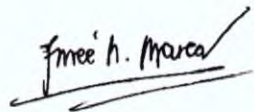
This travel burden not only inconveniences the people of the Dinagat Island but it can also cost them their livelihood. The creation of a Level II hospital will alleviate the stress and inconvenience experienced by the people in the region and will reduce the risks associated with transportation, especially during medical emergencies. Local residents, pregnant women, and those with chronic illnesses, will benefit from having access to critical healthcare services within their municipality.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has also highlighted the critical importance of a robust and resilient healthcare system capable of responding efficiently and being adaptable towards public health emergencies. This unprecedented global crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities in many healthcare infrastructures worldwide, emphasizing the need for investment in medical facilities, especially in more health-care deficient areas.

Furthermore, the creation of this health facility will strengthen Basilisa's ability to respond to natural disasters and calamities. This hospital will serve as a primary healthcare establishment during times of environmental crisis, providing immediate medical attention and emergency relief services to affected individuals. This, in turn, will greatly enhance the municipality's disaster preparedness and boost the well-being of its residents in times of crisis.

The forming of a Level II General Hospital in the Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands, is a critical step towards providing accessible and quality healthcare services for the people. This act will address the current medical issues faced by residents, reduce travel burden, increase the island's preparedness for future natural hazards and, consequentially, decrease the overall mortality rate within the region. By establishing this institute, the government demonstrates its commitment to improving the health and well-being of the people of Dinagat Islands, which contributes to the overall development of the municipality and province.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEVEL II GENERAL**  
**HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASILISA, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT**  
**ISLANDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **Section 1.** *Establishment of a Level II General Hospital in the Province of*  
2 *Dinagat Islands.* – There shall be established and maintained, under the direct  
3 supervision of the Department of Health, a general hospital with Level II capacity in  
4 the Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands, to be known as the Ruben  
5 E. Ecleo Sr. General Hospital.

6  
7           **Sec. 2.** *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include  
8 the department's program the operationalization and maintenance of the Ruben E.  
9 Ecleo Sr. General Hospital the initial funding of which shall be charged against the  
10 current year's appropriations of the Department of Health, and thereafter, the  
11 succeeding funding such as but not limited to the amount necessary for the capital  
12 outlay and the continued operation of the general hospital shall be included in the  
13 annual General Appropriations Act.

14  
15           **Sec. 3.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months  
16 following the effectivity of this Act. The Department of health shall promulgate the  
17 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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19           **Sec. 4.** *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
20 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general  
21 circulation.

*Approved,*