

'19 JAN 28 P 3:13

SENATE

S. B. No. 2178

RECEIVED



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE SIARGAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF
SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL 3 GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN
AS THE SIARGAO ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Siargao District Hospital, located in the Municipality of Dapa in Surigao del Norte, was meant to be a Level 1 General Hospital with a bed capacity of fifty (50). Unfortunately, the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte cannot provide sufficient funds for its staff, facilities and equipment. Thus, the hospital has been downgraded to an infirmary with an existing bed capacity of only thirty (30). It only has three (3) regular doctors. And while it needs thirty-six (36) nurses, it only has twenty-three (23) at the moment. The hospital needs an automated blood machine, hemo-analyser, electrolyte machine, and delivery table, among others.

The poor condition of the hospital has detrimental consequences for those living on the islands. Sometimes, emergency cases cannot be responded to adequately and residents have to go to Surigao City for proper treatments. The problem is compounded by the rise in tourists visiting the islands every year some of whom, may also need medical attention.

As Siargao Island is being promoted as the surfing capital of the Philippines and one of the country's prime tourist destination, basic service provided to its residents, most especially, health care, should also improve. In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.



SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



'19 JAN 28 P3:13

SENATE

S. B. No. 2178

REC. _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE SIARGAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF
SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL 3 GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN
AS THE SIARGAO ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Siargao Island*
2 ***Medical Center Act of 2019***’

3 **SEC. 2. Conversion.** – The Siargao District Hospital (SDH) in the Province of
4 Surigao del Norte is hereby converted into a Level 3 general hospital to be known as
5 the Siargao Island Medical Center (SIMC), and shall be under the supervision of the
6 Department of Health (DOH).

7 For this purpose, the bed capacity of SIMC shall be increased from fifty (50) to
8 one hundred (100) beds. The increase in bed capacity shall be implemented for a
9 period of not more than five (5) years from the approval of this Act..

10 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** – The SIMC shall pursue the following objectives:
11 (a) To provide the Filipino people, particularly in the Province of Surigao del
12 Norte with more affordable, quality and timely hospital care through a more
13 efficient health service delivery system that prioritizes the needs of the

- 1 underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, and as
2 resources would allow, free medical care to indigent citizens;
- 3 (b) To develop the SIMC into a world-class Level 3 general hospital that utilizes
4 modern and advanced medical technologies;
- 5 (c) To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research in the prevention
6 of diseases and the care and treatment of patients and related activities,
7 including the grant of scholarships and conduct of relevant congresses,
8 conventions, seminars, conferences;
- 9 (d) To teach and train physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers,
10 social workers, and other health professionals on the scientific conduct of
11 medical services and related activities and implementation of health
12 programs; and
- 13 (e) To provide other medical services pursuant to the goals, objectives and
14 rules of the National Health Insurance Program.

15 **SEC. 4. *Upgrade of Facilities and Services.*** – The hospital facilities and
16 services of the SIMC shall be upgraded and increased to conform with and be
17 commensurate to the increase in its authorized bed capacity as provided for in Section
18 2 of this Act, and consistent with the requirements of modern medical services and its
19 status as a Level 3 general hospital.

20 The SIMC shall submit to the DOH its proposed hospital development plan
21 which includes the future expansion of its scope of services as a specialty hospital that
22 specializes in a particular disease or condition, or in one type of patient.

23 **SEC. 5. *Medical Center Chief.*** - The SIMC shall be headed by a Medical
24 Center Chief who is a licensed physician and with experience in hospital administration
25 and management for at least five (5) years. The Medical Center Chief shall be
26 appointed by the Secretary of Health.

27 **SEC. 6. *Functions of the Medical Center Chief.*** – The Medical Center Chief
28 shall be responsible for the following:

- 1 (a) Overall management and administration of the SIMC; and
2 (b) Formulation of policies, plans, programs, strategies, and their
3 implementation to ensure high quality health care and high standards of
4 clinical training for medical and allied medical personnel.

5 In order to ensure a smooth transition, the incumbent Chief of Hospital of the
6 SIMC, if qualified, shall assume the position of Medical Center Chief of the SIMC in an
7 acting capacity until such time that a duly qualified successor has been appointed.

8 **SEC. 7. *Medical and Service Personnel.*** – The number of medical and
9 service personnel, maintenance and other operating expenses of the SIMC shall be
10 correspondingly increased to conform with Section 2 of this Act. The Medical Center
11 Chief of the SIMC, in coordination with the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of
12 Budget and Management, and the Civil Service Commissioner, shall determine the
13 additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up.

14 **SEC. 8. *Assistance from Other Government Offices.*** – The SIMC may call
15 upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentally of the government,
16 including government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), for such assistance
17 as it may need in the pursuit of its objectives. All individuals, entities and institutions
18 are hereby enjoined to render full assistance and cooperation to the SIMC in the
19 accomplishments of its objectives and activities.

20 **SEC. 9. *Tax Exemption.*** – Any grants, bequests, endowments, donations and
21 contributions made to the SIMC shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall
22 be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor, in
23 accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as
24 amended: Provided, That such donation shall not be disposed of, transferred or sold.

25 **SEC. 10. *Audit.*** – The Commission on Audit shall appoint a representative
26 who shall be the auditor of the SIMC and such personnel as may be necessary to assist
27 said representative in the performance of his duty.

1 **SEC. 11. Reports.** – The Medical Center Chief of the SIMC shall, within three
2 (3) months after the end of every fiscal year, submit periodic reports to the DOH as
3 may be required.

4 **SEC. 12. Appropriations.** –The Secretary of Health shall immediately include
5 in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which
6 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

7 **SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – Within ninety
8 (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Health, in consultation with
9 the Secretary of Budget and Management, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
10 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

11
12 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** –If any provision of his Act is declared invalid
13 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain valid.

14 **SEC. 15. Repealing Clause.** – All acts, executive orders, administrative
15 orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of
16 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

17 **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,