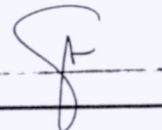


SENATE

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S.B. NO. 555

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INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO**

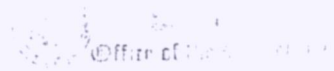
**AN ACT
CONVERTING THE SIARGAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF
SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL 3 GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS
THE 'SIARGAO ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER,' AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Siargao District Hospital in the Municipality of Dapa in Surigao del Norte, was a Level 1 General Hospital with a bed capacity of fifty (50). However, the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte was not able to provide sufficient funds for its staff, facilities and equipment resulting to the downgrade of the hospital to an infirmary with an existing bed capacity of only thirty (30). The infirmary, which caters the entire island of 43,700 hectares with a population of more than 110,000 has only three (3) regular doctors and twenty three (23) nurses out of the needed thirty six (36) nurses. The hospital needs an automated blood machine, hemo-analyser, electrolyte machine, and delivery table, among others.

The unfortunate condition of the infirmary has affected not only the locals but also tourists. In numerous cases, when emergency situations were not responded to immediately and adequately because the lack of medical resources. Patients are forced to travel by sea for nearly 3-4 hours to Surigao City for treatment.

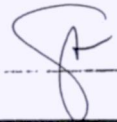
The Department of Tourism recorded 163,245 domestic and foreign visitors in 2018. With the influx of tourists, 90% are foreign arrivals, thereby making Siargao as one of the top tourist destinations not only in the country but also in Asia, the worrisome discrepancy between the accessibility of quality medical services and availability of medical practitioners and that of the number of patients reportedly needing medical assistance must be acted upon immediately.



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

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

3 **SEC. 2. Conversion.** The Siargao District Hospital (SDH) in the Province of Surigao del Norte
4 is hereby converted into a Level 3 General Hospital to be known as the SIARGAO ISLAND
5 MEDICAL CENTER (SIMC), and shall be under the supervision of the Department of Health
6 (DOH).

7 For this purpose, the bed capacity of SIMC shall be increased from fifty (50) to one
8 hundred (100) beds. The increase in bed capacity shall be implemented for a period of not more
9 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 Norte with
12 more affordable, quality and timely hospital care through a more efficient health service
13 delivery system that prioritizes the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled,
14 women and children, and as resources would allow, free medical care to indigent
15 citizens;
- 16 (b) To develop the SIMC into a world-class Level 3 general hospital that utilizes modern
17 and advanced medical technologies;

- 1 (c) To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research in the prevention of diseases
- 2 and the care and treatment of patients and related activities, including the grant of
- 3 scholarships and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, conferences;
- 4 (d) To teach and train physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers, social
- 5 workers, and other health professionals on the scientific conduct of medical services
- 6 and related activities and implementation of health programs; and
- 7 (e) To provide other medical services pursuant to the goals, objectives and rules of the
- 8 National Health Insurance Program.

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 6. *Functions of the Medical Center Chief.*** - The Medical Center Chief shall be
20 responsible for the following:

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

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

28 **SEC. 7. *Medical and Service Personnel.*** - The number of medical and service personnel,
29 maintenance and other operating expenses of the SIMC shall be correspondingly increase to
30 conform with Section 2 of this Act. The Medical Center Chief of the SIMC, in coordination
31 with the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Budget and Management, and the Civil Service
32 Commissioner, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up.

33 **SEC. 8. *Assistance from Other Government Offices.*** - The SIMC may call upon any
34 department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including
35 government-owned or controlled-corporations (GOCCs), for such assistance as it may need in
36 the pursuit of its objectives. All individuals, entities and institutions are hereby enjoined to
37 render full assistance and cooperation to the SIMC in the accomplishments of its objectives
38 and activities.

39 **SEC. 9. *Tax Exemption.*** - Any grants, bequests, endowments, donations and contributions
40 made to the SIMC shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as
41 allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of

1 the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended: Provided, that such donation shall
2 not be disposed of, transferred or sold.

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

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

8 **SEC. 12. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the
9 Department’s programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
10 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

15 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain valid.

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

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

22

23 *Approved,*