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**SENATE**

S. No. **2913**

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the announcement of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address that a mariculture park will be developed in Sibutu, Tawi-Tawi, renewed activity is expected to trigger ecotourism and investments. Hence, we cannot continue to be complacent and blind to the threats of the deadly disease - malaria - because no tourist nor investors will visit the province if there are diseases waiting for them.

The establishment of a Malaria, Tropical and Infectious Diseases Research and Treatment Institute in the Municipality of Sibutu, Tawi-Tawi, is the strategic health buffer in the control of malaria and other tropical and infectious diseases as well as to provide a more comprehensive health care to the Filipino people, particularly the residents of Tawi-Tawi.

It seeks to integrate various health interventions that are scattered and intermittent: the access to subsidized public health commodities such as insecticidal nets; home-based management of malaria in remote locations; antenatal care for women; the provision of accurate diagnostic tools; and effective treatment with new artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), and other disease prevention and control measures.

According to the World Health Organization and the Department of Health, Tawi-Tawi ranked second highest in recorded incidents of malaria cases at 6,539, representing 24.18% of the national figure. An increasing trend in the recorded affliction was observed from 4,992 in 2003 to 5,215 in 2004 to 6,702 in 2005. The highest incidence of confirmed cases at 954 with a morbidity rate of 41% is recorded in the Sibutu-Sitangkai area alone [Field Health Services Information System (FHSIS) 2006].

Malaria is a curable disease. It is also a preventable disease. However, further research is imperative to wipe it out. Let us save the nation via this strategic malaria prevention and control intervention and at the same time, bring affordable and comprehensive health care closer to poor and vulnerable people in Southern Philippines.

The approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

8 NOV 27 AM 10:09

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A MALARIA, TROPICAL AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE**  
**RESEARCH AND TREATMENT INSTITUTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF**  
**SIBUTU, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI INTEGRATING THERETO THE**  
**DATU ALAWADDIN BANDON HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby established a Malaria, Tropical and  
2 *Infectious Disease Research and Treatment Institute in the Municipality of*  
3 *Sibutu, Province of Tawi-Tawi, integrating thereto the Datu Alawaddin*  
4 *Bandon Hospital.*

5 SEC. 2. The Institute shall be at par with a secondary hospital with a  
6 capacity of at least fifty (50) beds. Aside from the existing facility of the Datu  
7 Alawaddin Bandon Hospital, the Institute will be housed in two (2) new  
8 buildings; each with a capacity of at least twenty-five (25) beds. The Institute  
9 *is envisioned to service the Municipality of Sibutu as well as other*  
10 *municipalities of the province.*

11 SEC. 3. The establishment of the Institute shall be done gradually over a  
12 two (2)-year period starting from the approval of this Act with the building of  
13 a fifty (50)-bed facility in Barangay Hadji Bidin, Municipality of Sibutu in the  
14 first year, and satellite facilities in the other ten (10) municipalities throughout  
15 the province in the second year.

16 SEC. 4. The Institute shall be under the supervision of the Department  
17 of Health (DOH), thus it shall be a repository of all data and base for  
18 researches on malaria, tropical and infectious diseases.

19 SEC. 5. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the  
20 Department's programs the operationalization of the Malaria, Tropical and

1 Infectious Disease Research and Treatment Institute, the funding of which  
2 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

3 *The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall continue to provide*  
4 funds for the operation of the Datu Alawaddin Bandon Hospital until its  
5 actual integration into the Malaria, Tropical and Infectious Disease Research  
6 and Treatment Institute and the funding thereof shall be included in the  
7 annual General Appropriations Act.

8 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,