

**Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City**

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2276**



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**Introduced by Representative  
ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO  
Second District, Batangas**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution states that, "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In line with this, this bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of the Mabini Community Hospital, Municipality of Mabini, Batangas, from 18-bed capacity to 50-bed capacity. It is important to increase its bed capacity to meet the needs of the citizens in this area which will serve not only its inhabitants but as well as to the tourists who were able to visit the wonderful sceneries and beaches of Mabini, Batangas.

Tourism is one of the significant industries which defines the Philippine economy. It is global in scope as tourism draws both domestic and international visitors. It is likewise complex that it varies into different interests such as adventure, recreational, cultural, historical, pilgrimage and others. More importantly, it yields vast amount of business and employment thus contributing to the growth of the economy. Suffice to say, that during this modern age, tourism has established itself as an apparent source of revenue which needs to be managed and improved in order to optimize economic development.

Batangas is one of the provinces with remarkable tourism industry. Based on the 2015 National Competitiveness Council of the Philippines, Batangas ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in Calabarzon Region as to the biggest number of overnight guests and 4<sup>th</sup> as to the biggest number of day tour guests. Situated in Verde Island Passage which is the center of marine biodiversity of

the world, the province is now one of the most visited places by diving enthusiasts.

In view of the complexity of tourism and the important role it plays to our economy, it becomes imperative that we provide ample attention on its management and growth. One common concern of tourists is the availability of sufficient medical services in Batangas. Illnesses, disorders and accidents occur even in the least anticipated occasions like when family and friends are at the midst of their vacation or tour.

Distinct among the various tourism related concerns is the divers' decompression sickness. Based on medical research, the appropriate management of such sickness is thru hyperbaric chamber which is usually unavailable in hospitals. This untoward situation results to paralysis or even death of tourists. Other extreme incidents like strokes and heart attacks, when sufficient medical equipment is unreachable, can lead to irreversible consequences as well. These scenario yields to the discouragement of tourists compromising revenue generation not only of the tourism related establishments but of the economy as a whole.

In our vision to protect and boost the continuously growing tourism industry in Batangas, not to mention however the recent COVID 19 pandemic, there is an apparent need to establish the Mabini Community Hospital as Batangas Tourism and Specialty Hospital.

The Mabini Community Hospital (MCH) currently services the Municipalities of Mabini, Tingloy, Lobo, San Luis, San Pascual and Bauan, including the City of Batangas. The said areas have at least 658, 200 inhabitants wherein the hospital provides for medical needs. Currently, it has served at least 7,578 patients ranging from normal spontaneous deliveries, dengue, appendicitis, pneumonia, trauma and conditions related to vehicle accidents either thru admissions, emergency case consultations, or out-patient consultations. The MCH was likewise crucial in their role as frontline medical services during the COVID 19 pandemic and has serviced at least 496 cases while utilizing their isolation facilities to ensure the recovery of our constituents and manage the number of virus infections.

With the passing of this Act, the said hospital, which will be known as Batangas Tourism Specialty Hospital (BTSH), shall address not only the general medical needs of our people, including all tourism related illness, disorders and accidents not only in Mabini but in the entire province of Batangas.

On its larger scale, it is essential that our national government need to address to the growing public health challenges not only for health and well-being of the residents of the area but as well as to the accommodation of

tourists who may have encountered unforeseen events as they journey the beauty of Batangas.

In view of the foregoing premises, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MABINI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF MABINI, BATANGAS AS BATANGAS TOURISM  
SPECIALTY HOSPITAL, A LEVEL 1 TOURISM AND SPECIALTY  
HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM 18 TO 50, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as Batangas Tourism Specialty Hospital (BTSH) Act.

**Section 2. Declaration of Policies.**

- a) Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution, the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;
- b) Article XIII, on Social Justice and Human Rights on Health, it is stipulated that the State shall be responsible to 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers;

- c) Article XIII, Section 12 specified that the State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems;
- d) Republic Act No. 9593 otherwise known as The Tourism Act of 2009, Section 2, provided that the State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange, and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos; and
- e) In pursuit of the aforementioned principles, the State shall establish and upgrade health facilities and shall ensure the medical needs of its citizens, especially in domains wherein tourism industry forms part of its economy. The State also recognizes the necessity of particular specialty and shall provide the essential support for the benefit of the populace.

**Section 3.** The authorized bed capacity of the Batangas Tourism Specialty Hospital in the Municipality of Mabini, Batangas is hereby increased from eighteen (18) to fifty (50) beds.

**Section 4.** The Batangas Tourism Specialty Hospital shall be under the administrative control of the Department of Health (DOH). The existing service facilities and professional health care services of BTSH are hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the bed capacity provided in Section 3 hereof.

**Section 5.** The existing workforce of Batangas Tourism Specialty Hospital shall be correspondingly increased. Upon prior consultation with the management of the hospital, the Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Management and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created pursuant to this Act and shall likewise retain eligible personnel currently employed by the hospital, subject to the existing civil service laws, rules and regulations.

**Section 6.** Batangas Tourism Specialty Hospital shall:

- a) Specialize as a tourism hospital with capability to address, treat and admit tourism related illnesses, disorders and accidents.
- b) Keep, maintain, and advance its hyperbaric chamber and all other medical equipment and supplies to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH) in consultation with the Department of Tourism (DOT);
- c) Maintain sufficient number of hospital ambulance and sea ambulance including fast communication facility to immediately respond to tourism-related emergency calls;
- d) Maintain sufficient number of specialists, physicians, as well as technical and medical professionals including support personnel to maintain a Level 1 tourism hospital with 50 bed capacity;
- e) Coordinate with the tourism offices of the LGU's as well as with the legitimate tourism establishments and sites to further complete the hospital provisions, as well as for information and coordination of the hospital services, in order to effectively address medical tourism concerns of the entire province;
- f) Admit and address regular cases of patients including those which are not tourism related as part of its hospital facility services;
- g) Accommodate indigent patients thus designating reasonable charity ward in line with the constitutional mandate to provide sufficient health services.

**Section 7.** 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.

**Section 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*