

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2849**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Introduced by Honorable Luisa Lloren Cuaresma**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of Veterans Regional Hospital in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya from two hundred (200) to five hundred (500) beds, upgrade its services, facilities and professional health care, authorize the increase of its medical personnel and change its name to Region II Trauma and Medical Center.

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution which deals with Social Justice and Human Rights, provides:

*“SEC. 11. 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”*

The Veterans Regional Hospital in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya is a 200-bed capacity Level II tertiary hospital retained by the Department of Health. It is duly accredited by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and serves as a trauma center, comprehensive emergency maternal center, obstetrical and neonatal care center and complementary and alternative health care training center.

The Veterans Regional Hospital further serves as a training and teaching hospital in the field of pathology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine, family and community medicine. It is considered a referral and

affiliating hospital of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya and its neighboring provinces including Quirino, Isabela, Nueva Ecija and the provinces from the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Due to the influx of patients from the provinces comprising Region II, the Veterans Regional Hospital is always overcrowded. The hospital provides its medical services to an average of 280 to 300 patients per day. Some of the patients insist on staying in the hospital despite the unavailability of beds and would rather settle in the corridors and floors of the hospital wards. Increasing the bed capacity of Veterans Regional Hospital from 200 to 500 beds and upgrading its services, facilities and professional health care will greatly benefit and better address the health needs of the people of Nueva Vizcaya and its neighboring provinces.

There is also a need to change the name of Veterans Regional Hospital to Region II Trauma and Medical Center for the simple reason that it is a misnomer since the hospital caters not only to the veterans but to the general public from the region. Naming it as Region II Trauma and Medical Center is in accordance with the hospital's designation by the Department of Health as the only trauma center in Region II. Changing its name will also correct the impression of the public that the said hospital is an extension or branch of the Veterans Medical Center located in Quezon City, Metro Manila.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

*Luisa Lloren Cuaresma*  
LUIA LLOREN CUARESMA

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**AN ACT**

**INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF VETERANS REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, CHANGING ITS NAME TO REGION II TRAUMA AND MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The authorized bed capacity of the Veterans Regional Hospital in the Municipality of Bayombong, Province of Nueva Vizcaya is hereby increased from two hundred (200) to five hundred (500) beds.

SEC. 2. The Veterans Regional Hospital shall now be known as the Region II Trauma and Medical Center.

SEC. 3. The existing facilities and professional health care services of the Region II Trauma and Medical Center are hereby upgraded to conform and be commensurate to the increase in its authorized bed capacity as provided for in Section 1 hereof.

SEC. 4. The existing workforce of the Region II Trauma and Medical Center shall also be correspondingly increased. The Department of Health shall, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and Civil Service Commission, and after consultation with the Region II Trauma and Medical Center, determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up.

SEC. 5. The increase in bed capacity of the Region II Trauma and Medical Center from two hundred (200) to five hundred (500) beds shall be implemented for a period of not more than one (1) year from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of Health 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.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,