

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2383

Introduced by Representative Florida P. Robes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks the establishment of a mental health center in the Lone District of San Jose Del Monte, Province of Bulacan to cater to the psychiatric needs of its constituents.

Mental health, based on the standards of the World Health Organization, is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual, realizing his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community. It also affects how we think, feel and act. Many factors cause mental health problems to occur such as biological, life experiences, and family history. Thus, psychological intervention is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

This proposal implies that health is not merely the absence of disease, illness or infirmity as it also involves the complete physical and social well-being of individuals. However, this aspect of health services has been ignored or less prioritized by the government. Our country may be considered one of the poorest in terms of mental health resources. This could be due to the fact that when family members have psychological disorders, they are kept away from society or secluded in asylums as there is a social stigma attached to it. More so, there is a scant public mental health facilities available in the country. Little did people know that through proper interventions, such disorders can be treated or prevented. People with mental health problems can get better and many recover completely. Otherwise, people suffering from mental disorders become disabled. Unfortunately mental health facilities are scant. Hence, the immediate approval of this proposal is earnestly sought.


FLORIDA P. ROBES

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC IN THE CITY OF
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to uphold the basic right of all Filipinos to mental health, to respect the fundamental right of people requiring mental health services as enshrined in the Constitution and international covenants, and to provide people suffering from psychological issues, depression and mental trauma special care and attention.

SEC. 2. Establishment. There shall be established a mental health clinic in the City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan to be situated in Brgy. San Isidro, San Jose Del Monte City.

SEC. 3. Services. The Clinic shall provide services which include but not limited to counseling and therapy, crisis counseling and intervention, medication evaluation and management, group therapy and support groups, mindfulness meditation, after-hours care and other psychiatric services.

SEC. 4. Issues Treated. The Clinic shall provide treatment and support to a multitude of issues including the management of difficult emotions, anxiety and stress, childhood trauma, cross cultural issues, life transitions, depression, parenting issues, post-traumatic stress disorder, family and interpersonal conflicts, domestic abuse, among others.

SEC. 5. Who Can Avail. - All residents of the City of San Jose Del Monte shall be given priority in the availment of the services being provided by the Clinic. Non-residents may also be given the needed psychiatric services provided they shall

secure prior appointment.

SEC. 6. Referral. If the patient needs a more intensive psychiatric care, the Clinic shall make a proper referral to another provider accredited by the Department of Health.

SEC. 7. Organizational Structure. The Clinic shall be supervised by a director who may be a psychiatric doctor or a doctorate holder in psychology or guidance counselling and shall be assisted by professionals who are knowledgeable in psychiatric care and treatment.

SEC. 8. Administration and Supervision. The Clinic shall be under the full administrative and technical supervision of the Department shall increase its operating fund; upgrade its medical equipment and facilities, and construct its needed infrastructure.

SEC.9. Appropriation. The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Clinic shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Secretary of Health shall promulgate within sixty (60) days the Implementing Rules and Regulations that shall be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. - If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof, shall not be repealed or modified.

sSEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,