

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3302



Introduced by: Representative Florencio Gabriel G. Noel

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In June 2016, the Philippine Statistics Authority released a report of their 2015 Census of Population showing a growth rate of 1.36 percent in the Province of Northern Samar which has a population size of six hundred thirty-two thousand (632,000), third in the Eastern Visayas Region. Furthermore, the Municipality of Catarman has the largest population size in the Province of Northern Samar which is composed of ninety-four thousand and thirty-seven (94,037) individuals. Due to lack of family planning, growth rate tends to proliferate and cause a rapid increase in population. This underlying problem and its associated economic issues pose emerging health risks that needs to be addressed immediately.

Accordingly, the Province of Northern Samar only has ten (10) hospitals, four (4) of which are located in the Municipality of Catarman. Considering population growth, the total of one hundred fifty-one (151) hospital beds in the Municipality of Catarman is not adequate with the demand of medical and hospital facilities of the municipality itself and its neighboring towns.

In line with Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution which provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."; and Section 11 of Article XIII which states that 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"; a Medical Center shall be established in the Municipality of Catarman to cater the increasing health concerns of the people in the Province of Northern Samar. Additionally, the Medical Center shall be composed of advanced medical and surgical facilities to become more responsive with the health needs of the Province and be in cognizance with the Universal Health Care Act to "ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk."

This bill seeks to create a facility to be known as the Catarman Medical Center to be located in the Municipality of Catarman with a minimum capacity of one hundred (100) beds and shall be administered by the Local Government Unit of Catarman, Northern Samar.

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


FLORENCIO GABRIEL G. NOEL
An Waray Party-list

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CATARMAN, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a tertiary general hospital, known as Catarman Medical Center with a minimum capacity of one hundred (100) beds, to be located at the Municipality of Catarman. The Catarman Medical Center shall be under the administrative and technical supervision of the Local Government Unit of Catarman, Northern Samar.

SEC 2. The Municipality of Catarman in the province of Northern Samar shall provide funding for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the Catarman Medical Center.

SEC 3. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's program the subsidy support for the capital outlay requirements for the establishments of the medical center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 4. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 5. All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of general circulations.

Approved,