Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 718

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, as a tropical country, has long been encountering numerous, if not frequent cases involving communicable diseases. To date, communicable diseases constitute one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the country.

In the government's effort towards achieving national development in the field of health, a strong biomedical research component with full cooperation between academic institutions and field agencies is necessary for the effective pursuit of programs for the control of communicable diseases.

There is an immediate need to convert the Western Visayas Sanitarium and Leprosarium into the President Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Hospital and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, as well as to maintain and operate it thereafter because it will provide the biomedical research support for communicable disease control programs not only in the Western Visayas area but also in the country.

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

JUDY J. SYJUCO

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE WESTERN VISAYAS SANITARIUM AND LEPROSARIUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. BARBARA, PROVINCE OF ILOILO INTO THE PRESIDENT DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* The Western Visayas Sanitarium and Leprosarium in the municipality of Sta. Barbara, province of Iloilo is hereby converted into the President Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Hospital and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the Institute.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote and advance the complete development in the field of health and research.

SECTION 3. *Scope and Coverage of Tropical Medicine*. For purposes of this Act, the scope and coverage of tropical medicine shall pertain to diseases that are specific to the tropics, which is the geographical area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn, and for diseases that present differently in this geographical region as compared to other regions, to wit: gastrointestinal infections, viral hepatitis, bacterial and non-bacterial respiratory infections, amoebiasis, schistosomiasis, filiariasis, malaria, pertussis, diphteria, tetanus, meningitis, maningismus, measles, mumps, herpes, chicken pox, rocky mountain spotted fever, encephalitis, echo-viral diseases, coxachie viral diseases, and Philippine hemorrhagic fever: Provided that the Department of Health may include such other pertinent diseases in consultation with the Advisory Board herein created.

SECTION 4. *A uthority and Responsibility*. The Institute shall have the following authority and responsibility, which shall be exercised, by its offices:

Planning and Monitoring activities of the Institute, while the other Assistant Director shall be responsible for Support Staff Services.

All the officers and employees of the Institute shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health in accordance with existing laws governing such.

SECTION 8. *Biomedical Research Functions.* Functions of the Institute involving biomedical research in tropical medicine will be undertaken together with applicable appropriations, records, equipment, property and such personnel as may be necessary.

SECTION 9. *Funding.* Such amount as may be necessary for the operating expenses of the Institute for the current calendar year is hereby appropriated in the National Budget. Thereafter, funds necessary for its maintenance and operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,