

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2238**



Introduced by HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At present, Overseas Filipino Workers are considered our modern heroes. Along with other economic stimulants, the pouring-in of remittances from the OFWs to their families here in our country contributes a lot to the functioning and survival of our economy.

Thus, we cannot take for granted the indispensable role played by our modern heroes. As such, aside from their skills and experiences, an important capital that they have to possess is their health. Long hours of work, different climate and environment coupled by emotional stress raise the risk of weakness and ill health.

In this light, it has become imperative for the State to protect the interest and promote the well-being of Filipino overseas workers including their families and dependents through the provision of social and welfare services. It shall be part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost.

This bill seeks to establish a special hospital for Overseas Filipino Workers and their dependents which should be under the supervision and control of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

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


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District, Cavite

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**“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
(OFWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Migrant Workers Hospital Act of 2013.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. Further, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well-being of Filipino overseas workers including their families and dependents through the provision of social and welfare services.

Sec. 3. Creation of Special Hospital – To carry out the above policy, there is hereby created a special hospital to be known as the Migrant Workers Hospital which shall be under the supervision and control of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

Sec. 4. Objectives – To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health care, Migrant Workers Hospital shall:

- a) Provide for a comprehensive/total health care services to all migrant workers who are OWWA contributors including their dependents;
- b) Complement the existing package services under the Health Care Program so as to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitative programs;
- c) Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental capability of all the would-be overseas Filipino workers duly covered by an approved job order;
- d) Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients and to generate relevant information and data in aid of policy formulation.

Sec. 5. Administration and Composition of Board Members – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the powers and the administration of the Migrant Workers Hospital shall be vested in a Board, which is composed of the following members:

- a) The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment as *Ex-Officio* Chairman;
- b) The Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration as *Ex-Officio* Vice Chairman;
- c) The Secretary of the Department of Health as *Ex-Officio* Member;
- d) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development as *Ex-Officio* member;
- e) The Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration as *Ex-Officio* Member;
- f) Two (2) representatives from OFW sector (one from landbased and another from sea-based) as Members.

The two representatives from the OFW sector shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from a list of nominees submitted by the *Ex-Officio* Chairman. The representatives appointed shall serve for a term of three (3) years without re-appointment.

Sec. 6. Responsibilities and Powers – The Board of Directors of the Migrant Workers Hospital shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

- a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the Migrant Worker's Hospital's objectives and purposes as enunciated in Section 4 of this Act;
- b) To enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its establishment, maintenance, operations and objectives;
- c) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act;
- d) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The Board shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from the date of its approval.

Sec. 8. Appropriation – In addition to the seed money held in trust by the OWWA, the National Government shall contribute the amount necessary for the establishment and initial operation of the Migrant Workers Hospital which shall be taken from the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Subsequently, its appropriation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Sec. 9. Assistance from Government Offices, etc. – The Migrant Workers Hospital may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

Sec. 10. Exemption from Donor's Taxes, Customs and Tariff Duties – All donations, contributions or endowments which may be made by persons or entities to the hospital and the importation of medical equipment and machineries, spare parts and other medical equipment not hereto mentioned used solely and exclusively for the Migrant Workers Hospital shall be exempt from income, gift, direct and indirect taxes, wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

Sec. 11. Annual Report – The Migrant Workers Hospital shall render to the President of the Philippines, to the Senate and to the House of Representatives an annual of its activities and recommendations.

Sec. 12. Congressional Oversight Committee. – A Congressional Oversight Committee, herein after referred to as the “Committee,” is hereby constituted in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development and the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs and four (4) additional members from each House to be designated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively. The Committee shall, among others in aid of legislation:

1. Monitor and ensure the proper implementation of this Act;
2. Review the performance of the hospital; and
3. Review the proper implementation of the programs of the Hospital and the use of its fund.

In furtherance of the herein above cited objectives, the Committee is empowered to require the hospital to submit all pertinent information including but not limited to its performance data and its annual audited financial statement certified by the Commission on Audit.

Sec. 13. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or part thereof deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 14. Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,