

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
17th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4557**



Introduced by **Representative Wes Gatchalian**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution provides that *"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them"*.

Also, Art. XIII, Sec. 11, in particular 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers"*.

Accordingly, the government must ensure that specialty hospitals (level 3) should be widely distributed geographically across the country being an archipelagic country instead of its concentration in the National Capital Region.

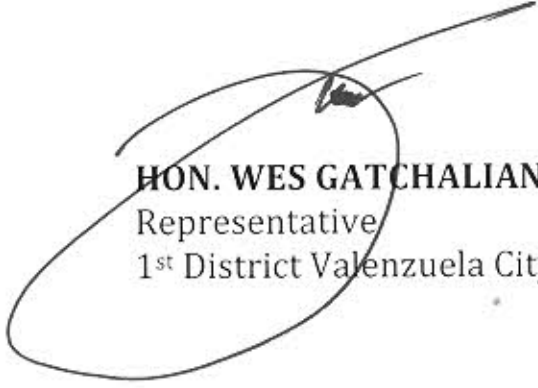
Since its humble beginnings in 1980, the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) has been home for children with special medical concerns. Proving to be of pivotal purpose, the presence of the PCMC at the heart of Metro Manila has served a number of children diagnosed with diseases that only a specialty hospital such as PCMC can cater.

Truth be told, the living presence of public hospitals and government controlled medical institutions have been an assurance to the public especially to those who are less in life, that a medical hospital with qualified doctors and advance facilities are ready to aid our dear children.

Despite however of the more than three decades of existence of PCMC, it remains to be the only one among public institutions with such caliber. The PCMC may have maintained its sterling reputation and outgrown its medical capacities but it has not physically reached yet the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

This bill therefore seeks to enact laws that will establish the Philippine Children's Medical Hospital in Visayas and Mindanao. By doing so, it hopes to address a decentralization of the National Capital Region so that those who may be far from the metropolis can also share in the benefits of urban cities of the country.

This bill will be of vital necessity especially to Visayan and Mindanaon constituents of the country who do not have the financial means to travel and consult with medical experts in Metro Manila.



HON. WES GATCHALIAN

Representative

1st District Valenzuela City

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO HOSPITAL FACILITIES OF
THE PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER, AMENDING FOR THAT
PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1631, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES.

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1631, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. *Creation of the Philippine Children's Medical Center.* There is hereby created a trust, for the benefit primarily of the Filipino people, under the name and style of **Philippine Children's Medical Center**.

The **Philippine Children's Medical Center** shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, composed of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The **Executive Director** of the Center shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees. The six appointive members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation for a period of four (4) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines, and the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term. The Board of Trustees of the **Philippine Children's Medical Center** shall elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.

The **Executive** Director of the **Philippine Children's Medical Center** shall serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board. The **Executive** Director shall act as the chief executive officer of the **Philippine Children's Medical Center** with authority, among others, to appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of the personnel thereof, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Four (4) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact business and any decision of such four members on any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the **Philippine Children's Medical Center**.

The hospital Director for Visayas and Mindanao Hospital Facilities shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees on the basis of search process for a period of Six (6) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified with a reappointment.

Section 2. *Funding.* To carry out the purpose of this Act, including the operation of PCMC-Visayas, and the PCMC-Mindanao, the land acquisition, construction, and the acquisition of hospital equipments, furniture and fixtures, the sum of Five Hundred Million (500,000,000.00) pesos for each hospital is hereby appropriated. Thereafter the expenses for the PCMC-Visayas and PCMC-Mindanao shall be provided in the General Appropriations Acts intended for the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

Section 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board of Trustees shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the implementation of this Act.

Section 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect on the day following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,