



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2058

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Known as our “Bagong Bayani,” our Overseas Filipino Workers have greatly contributed to our national economy. The total remittance sent by the OFWs, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reached P134.77 billion pesos during the period April to September 2020. During the same period, the number of Filipino workers who worked abroad was estimated at 1.77 million.

This bill seeks to give importance to the health of our Filipino workers abroad as well as their dependents by way of establishing a hospital that will serve them primarily. Giving them priority will ease out the burden, anxiety and difficulties of working abroad as they go through the process of renewal, as well as for first time workers abroad.

In view of the above, the passage of this bill is eagerly sought.

REP. FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V
First District, La Union

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Hospital Act or OFW Hospital Act.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the Filipino people and to instill health consciousness among them. Also, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well-being of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in recognition of their importance and contribution to economic development and nation building as they have been considered as “Bagong Bayani.”

Section 3. Establishing of OFW Hospital. – There shall be established a hospital with at least tertiary level of care to be known as “OFW Hospital.” The Hospital shall be developed consistent with the health care needs of the OFWs and their dependents. The Hospital shall be under the full administrative and technical supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

Section 4. Objectives. – To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health care, the Hospital shall have the following main objectives:

(a) Provide comprehensive and total health care services to all migrant workers including Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) contributors and their legal dependents;

(b) Serve as primary referral hospital for repatriated OFW needing medical assistance and support;

(c) Develop a data base management systems that will effectively monitor condition of patients and to generate relevant health information and data for policy formulation; and

(d) Participate in the health care provider networks and arrangements relative to the implementation of Republic Act No. 11223, or the “Universal Health Care Act.”

Section 5. *Medical Assistance.* – The Secretary of Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as Chairperson of the OWWA Board, shall ensure that existing health benefits and medical assistance programs are strengthened to include subsidies on hospitalization and medical procedures for OFW and qualified dependents.

Section 6. *Tax Exemption.* – The importation of equipment, machinery and spare parts which are used solely and exclusively for the operation of the OFW Hospital and are not available locally shall be exempt from value-added tax and customs duty.

Section 7. *Appropriations.* – The funding shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.