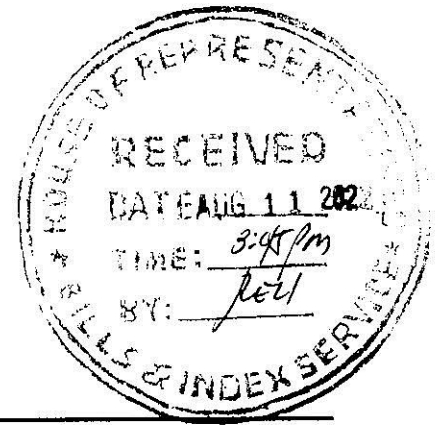


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3545



Introduced by REP. LEX ANTHONY CRIS A. COLADA

The 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people. It is also the primary policy of the state to 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. In fact, the latest gauge of the nation's progress is through its medical services and facilities.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide, with approximately 10 million mortalities recorded in 2020, accounting for nearly one in every six deaths. Cancers in the lung, breast, colon, rectum, and prostate are common cancers (World Health Organization, 2021). In the Philippines, 189 of every 100,000 Filipinos are affected by cancer, with four (4) Filipinos dying of cancer every hour or 96 cancer patients every day. This is according to a study undertaken by the University of the Philippines' Institute of Human Genetics, National Institutes of Health. Cancer in all its forms accounts for 0.25 percent of total mortality in Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN), according to Department's data from 2015 to 2019.

Further, the DOH declares that cancer is one of four epidemic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) or lifestyle-related illnesses (LRDs), which include cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease. Cancer is term that refers to conditions in which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and can invade neighboring tissues. The cancer cells can also spread through the blood and lymphatic systems to other parts of the body. NCDs are now regarded as a massive "silent disaster" ravaging the Filipino population, claiming 300,000 lives each year, 800 each day, and 33 each hour. Its human cost has been compared to "two 747 planes packed with passengers colliding every day." These NCDs have several risk factors in common, including tobacco use, an unhealthy diet, insufficient physical activity, and harmful alcohol use.

This bill proposes the creation of National Cancer Center of the Philippines that will specialized in cancer treatment such as chemotherapy, radiation and cobalt therapy. It shall be strategically located to provide services and address the medical needs especially of patients coming from areas with high prevalence of cancer cases.

The establishment and maintenance of a cancer center would primarily benefit cancer patients and their families and would further enhance the noble undertaking of cancer research, provide state-of-the-art training of medical and technical personnel as well as render specialized treatment for the prevention, control and treatment of cancer. It shall also develop programs that would address the prevention and early detection of cancer to lower the risks of developing cancer among the local population. Finally, the creation of the cancer center will be an effective mechanism to attract the best cancer specialist in the country to render service to indigent patients at affordable rates.

Furthermore, this bill also intends to provide financial and material support towards the establishment and maintenance of a cancer center for the welfare and benefit of the Filipino people.

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



REP. LEX ANTHONY CRIS COLADA
Party-list, AAMBIS-OWA

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INTRODUCED BY REP. LEX ANTHONY CRIS A. COLADA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CANCER CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE
NATIONAL CANCER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Cancer Center of the Philippines Act.”

SEC. 2. *Establishment of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines (NCCP).* – There is hereby created the National Cancer Center of the Philippines (NCCP), under the supervision of the Department of Health. The NCCP is a government corporate facility that will offer comprehensive care of patients suffering from any kind of cancer including surgery operations, chemotherapy, radiation and other aggressive treatment. It shall also have a strong teaching program and research capability to serve the Filipino people. It shall be located along Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and shall have perpetual succession with powers of a corporation.

SEC. 3. *Purposes and Objectives.* – The NCCP shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- (1) To construct, establish, equip, maintain, administer and operate a specialized hospital for diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and/or relief of cancer patients;
- (2) To promote medical research relative to the prevention and treatment of cancer including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congress, convention, seminars and conferences;
- (3) To create awareness on cancer prevention, treatment and control through public information dissemination;

- (4) To encourage the training physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of services, and related activities;
- (5) To assist universities, colleges, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of cancer and encourage advanced training and specialization on matters of, or affecting cancer;
- (6) To provide psychosocial support services and counseling to the patient and family members;
- (7) To consolidate the information from other related organizations for the purpose of aiding government's efforts, policies and programs relative to the purposes and objectives enumerated herein.

SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions.* – To attain the above enumerated purposes and objectives, the NCCP shall have the following orders and functions, among other things:

- (1) To contract and be contracted with;
- (2) To adopt by-laws, rules and regulations not contrary to law to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the NCCP;
- (3) To purchase, receive, take or grant, hold, convey, sell, lease, pledge, mortgage and otherwise deal with such property of whatever nature the transaction of the lawful business of the NCCP may reasonably and necessarily require subject to the limitations prescribed by law;
- (4) To invite foreign cancer specialist and similar experts in the various medical fields to train the personnel or trainees or residents of the NCCP;
- (5) To advance the training of personnel of the Philippine conventions, conferences, congresses, seminars to accomplish the purpose and objectives of the NCCP; and
- (6) To exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the NCCP;

SEC. 5. *Board of Trustees.* – The NCCP shall be governed and its activities and properties be directed, controlled and managed, by a Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of a Chairman and six (6) members, all of whom to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department of Health.

The members of the Board of Trustees shall serve for a period of four (4) years and until their successors shall have been appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Board, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member.

The Board shall elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be presiding officer of the Board of Trustees. The Medical Director of the National Cancer Center shall serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Four (4) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact business and any decision of such four (4) members on any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines.

SEC. 6. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Director.* – The NCCP shall be headed by the Executive Director who shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Prepare the agenda for the meetings of the board, and to submit for consideration of the board such policies and measures as he/she believe(s) necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- b. Execute, administer and implement the policies and measures approved by the board;
- c. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties provided in the by-laws and as vested to him by the board.

SEC. 7. *Property of the NCCP.* – The property of the NCCP shall consist of such real, personal, mixed and other type of property, now owned or reserved for, or any may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to the NCCP by the government, its branches and instrumentalities, any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien or domestic, in order to carry out its purposes and objectives as set forth herein.

SEC. 8. *Tax Exemption on Donations.* – All grants, bequests, endowments, donations and contributions made to the NCCP to be used actually, directly, and exclusively by the NCCP shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended.

The importation of equipment, machinery and spare parts which are used solely and exclusively for the operation of the NCCP and are not available locally shall be exempt from value-added tax and customs duty.

SEC. 9. *Assistance from Government Offices.* – The NCCP may call upon any department, bureau, offices, and agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of purposes and objectives.

SEC. 10. *Government Contribution.* – The Government shall contribute the necessary land, building, equipment and facilities to the NCCP.

SEC. 11. *Program for Indigents.* – The Department of Health shall ensure that the NCCP shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents needing liver/liver products and patients with liver diseases in accordance to the implementing guidelines on

classification of patients on Availment of Medical Social Services in Government Hospitals.

SEC. 12. *Retention of Income.* – The NCCP is hereby authorized to retain and utilize their income derived from its operation and non-patient related activities for the maintenance of the other operating expenditures, including capital outlay especially in the acquisition of equipment and supplies, subject to auditing rules and regulations. Further, no amount from such income shall be used to augment the salaries and other compensation of the NCCP personnel beyond the amounts determined by the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCC), as provide for in RA No. 10149.

SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* – The amount of one billion (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial operation of the NCCP which shall be charged to the appropriations of the DOH under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the necessary amount to support the continued operation and maintenance of the NCCP shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 14. *Annual Report.* – The NCCP shall render to the DOH an annual report on its operations and accomplishments.

SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the completion of the appointment of its members, the Corporation's Board of Trustees shall convene to formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.