

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5873

Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago



EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the 1987 Constitution, the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. (Art. II, Sec. 15) 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 underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. Finally, the State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers. (Art. XIII, Sec. 11)

The Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City is a government owned and controlled corporation, administratively attached to the Department of Health, sharing a Board of Trustees with three other specialty centers, i.e., Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines, and National Kidney and Transplant Institute. Due to its previous leadership, PCMC was accredited as a Level IV training hospital (one of only three in the country), with an authorized 212-bed capacity, serving patients from newborn to 19 years old, as well as high-risk pregnant women.¹ The PCMC has the largest ICU for children and the biggest neonatal ICU (NICU) in the Philippines. It has a fully equipped Child Neurology and Neurosurgery Service Program. It has a comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation facility and the most extensive pediatric multi-specialty for inpatients, as well as for clinic service to out-patients and referrals. Among these are the Cancer and Hematology Center; Adolescent Center (Teen Republic); Pediatric Lung, Heart, Kidney and Liver Center; Pediatric Critical Care Center, and; the Clinical Centers for General Pediatric Services and Surgical & Allied Medical Services, respectively.²

The theme "Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give" of the 1979 International Year of the Child inspired the establishment of PCMC in 1979. The present proponent believes that the expansion of PCMC to different locations in the Philippines – ideally, one per region - will give all children and the youth access to excellent pediatric care. By expanding or branching out, young patients do not need to travel to the National Capital Region to seek medical care from PCMC, therefore, reducing additional costs and eliminating logistical problems.

For this reason, the present proponent endeavors to establish a PCMC constituent specialty hospital in Nueva Ecija, to be located in San Jose City, to serve the people in the

¹ N.a. "Our History". PCMC. N.d. Web. Accessed on 23 October 2022. < <http://www.pcmc.gov.ph/about/2016-07-22-08-39-56>>

² *Ibid.*

province, including all the localities in Region III and adjacent regions. Region III or Central Luzon covers 7 provinces, namely, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales. According to the 2020 PSA Census, the population of Region III is 12,422,172. Nueva Ecija, particularly, is home to 2,310,134 Filipinos, with the youth (ages under 1 to 19) comprising almost 40% of the population.

The PCMC for Nueva Ecija shall be a constituent specialty hospital of the Philippine Children's Medical Center and shall be administered by its existing Board of Trustees. The bed capacity shall be at least 150 beds. It shall have a program for indigent patients, i.e., the number of beds allocated for indigent patients shall not be less than forty percent (40%) of the total number of hospital beds. Thus, ensuring that more children will be given excellent pediatric care from the Philippines' premiere institution.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this measure is sought.



JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER FOR
NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people, especially the children, including proper care and nutrition and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development. Towards this end, the State shall ensure the accessibility of medical services and the availability of specialized healthcare to children in the Province of Nueva Ecija and neighboring areas.

SECTION 2. *Philippine Children's Medical Center in Nueva Ecija.* – There shall be established and maintained, under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health, a Philippine Children's Medical Center in San Jose City, in the Province of Nueva Ecija, to be known as the "Philippine Children's Medical Center for Nueva Ecija", hereinafter referred to as PCMC – Nueva Ecija.

The PCMC – Nueva Ecija shall be a constituent specialty hospital of the Philippine Children's Medical Center and shall be administered by its existing Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

The PCMC – Nueva Ecija shall have a bed capacity of at least one hundred fifty (150) beds.

SECTION 3. *Medical Director.* – The PCMC – Nueva Ecija shall be headed by a Medical Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Board.

The Medical Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a. Execute the policies, guidelines, and programs approved by the Board, and be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;
- b. Submit for the consideration and approval of the Board proposed measures, policies, guidelines, and programs as may be deemed necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;

- c. Direct and supervise the management, operation, and administration of the PCMC – Nueva Ecija, and may delegate this power and any or some of his administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the hospital;
- d. Execute, on behalf of the Board, all contracts and agreements which the latter may enter into, and to execute, accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such contracts and agreements;
- e. Represent the PCMC – Nueva Ecija, on behalf of the Board, in all dealings with other offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the government, and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private;
- f. Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal, and suspension of the officers and employees of the hospital; and
- g. Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by the Board.

SECTION 4. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Board shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the PCMC – Nueva Ecija, subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission and of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management.

The Board may reorganize the structure, modify the staffing pattern, and create or abolish divisions, sections, or units in the PCMC – Nueva Ecija.

SECTION 5. *Program for Indigents.* – The Board shall ensure that the PCMC – Nueva Ecija shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents. The number of beds allocated for indigent patients shall not be less than forty percent (40%) of the total number of hospital beds.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Children's Medical Center, shall formulate and promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (Php500,000,000.00) out of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated is hereby appropriated for the establishment, initial operation, and maintenance of the PCMC – Nueva Ecija. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the PCMC – Nueva Ecija shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, 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,