

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7644

Introduced by Rep. Oscar G. Malapitan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to rename the Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital located in Tala, Caloocan City as Jose Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center, with corresponding mandate for the upgrading of its existing service capabilities and professional health care services, and an increase in the number of medical staff.

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital (DJNRMH) was established in 1940 originally as the CENTRAL LUZON SANITARIUM purposely for the treatment of patients with leprosy, a chronic infectious disease which had spread in the country to a critical level in the 1930's.

Premised on the extreme necessity to control the growing cases of leprosy then, Commonwealth Act No. 161 was enacted into law which mandates the establishment of leper colonies in Manila, Cagayan Valley and Ilocos Region designed for the segregation and treatment of leprosy patients. Thus, in 1938, an eight hundred eight (808) hectares of land which is part of the Tala Estate in Caloocan was acquired for the CENTRAL LUZON SANITARIUM and declared the same as reservation and resettlement area for hansenites and their immediate families.

In 1975, due to exigencies existing at that time, some wards of the hospital were opened to admit non-leprosy patients. Meanwhile, in 1980, Dr. Jose Natalio Rodriguez, a renowned Filipino leprologist and researcher, and the first director of the Central Luzon Sanitarium, passed away, leaving a wealth of legacy of hard work for the treatment of leprosy. On the same year, in fitting recognition for his invaluable services that span fifty three years all devoted to the control of leprosy, then President Ferdinand E. Marcos issued Batas Pambansa Blg. 94 which renames the Central Luzon Sanitarium as DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

By 1990, a progressive expansion of services was effected by the hospital in order to meet the growing medical needs of the general public, concomitant with the leprosy treatment and control responsibilities of the institution. A re-direction of the sanitarium became imperative in 1993 which officially led to the delivery of medical services even to Non-Hansen patients.

In 2007, premised on the growing number of in-patients and out-patients needing tertiary health care, Republic Act No. 9420 was passed into law converting two hundred (200) beds of the 2,000-bed Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium for tertiary general health care. The following year, the implementing rules and regulations therefor was issued by the Department of Health through DOH Administrative Order 2008-0032.

The year 2014 signaled the start of the journey of the DJNRMH towards Quality Management System certifiable to ISO 9001:2008 which it eventually received from Certification International Philippines, Inc. in July 6, 2015. In September 2017, it was initially recommended for certification of its Quality Management System to ISO 9001:2015 and got its certification on the same year which was recertified valid for three (3) years until July 15, 2021.

On the following year, in December 2018, the DJNRMH was given by the Department of Health the license to function as a Level III General Hospital, thereby upgrading the hospital to a teaching and training medical center.

And finally, in April 12, 2019, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed into law Republic Act No. 11286 which further increase the bed capacity for tertiary health care of the DJNRMH from two hundred (200) to eight Hundred (800) bed capacity.

This proposed legislation which seeks to rename the Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital as Jose Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center is a fitting recognition of its development from a single-purpose hospital to a multifunction health facility and aims to give it the right designation that synch well with its current status as a Level III general hospital as well as a teaching and training medical center.

Thus, premised on the foregoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


HON. OSCAR G. MALAPITAN

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AN ACT

RENAMING THE DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF CALOOCAN INTO JOSE RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 94, ENTITLED "AN ACT RENAMING THE CENTRAL LUZON SANITARIUM AT TALA, CITY OF CALOOCAN, AS DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL"

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

SECTION 1. The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital in the City of Caloocan is hereby renamed as Jose Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center.

SEC. 2. The existing service capability, professional health care services and medical staff complement of Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital are hereby upgraded and increased to correspond with the requirements of the medical center.

SEC. 3. The increase in the service capability, professional health care services and bed capacity shall conform to the hospital development plan of the medical center.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Section 1 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 94, entitled "An Act Renaming the Central Luzon Sanitarium at Tala, City of Caloocan, as Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital" is hereby amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Budget and Management, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,