



HOUSE BILL NO. 965

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, to *Jose Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center*. Alongside the proposed renaming, the bill also mandates the upgrading of the institution's service capabilities, enhancement of professional health care services, and an increase in its medical personnel complement.

The *Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital (DJNRMH)* traces its roots to 1940, when it was established as the *Central Luzon Sanitarium* for the treatment of leprosy—a chronic infectious disease that had reached alarming proportions in the Philippines during the 1930s.

In response to the urgent need to control the disease, Commonwealth Act No. 161 was enacted in 1938, mandating the establishment of leprosaria in Manila, Cagayan Valley, and the Ilocos Region. That same year, 808 hectares of land from the Tala Estate in Caloocan were acquired for the construction of the *Central Luzon Sanitarium*, which was designated as a reservation and resettlement area for persons affected by leprosy (hansenites) and their immediate families.

By 1975, some hospital wards began accepting non-leprosy patients to address other health care needs. In 1980, following the passing of Dr. Jose Natalio Rodriguez—a distinguished Filipino leprologist, researcher, and the first director of the sanitarium—President Ferdinand E. Marcos issued *Batas Pambansa Blg. 94*, officially renaming the institution to *Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital*, in recognition of Dr. Rodriguez's 53 years of devoted service to leprosy control and treatment.

Throughout the 1990s, the hospital expanded its services to meet the increasing medical needs of the general public while continuing its mission on leprosy control. In 1993, a formal policy shift allowed the hospital to officially cater to non-Hansen patients.

To further institutionalize its evolving role, *Republic Act No. 9420* was enacted in 2007, converting 200 of the hospital's 2,000 beds into those designated for tertiary general health care. The Department of Health later issued the implementing rules and regulations through *Administrative Order No. 2008-0032*.

In pursuit of excellence, the hospital embarked on the implementation of a Quality Management System (QMS) aligned with international standards. This effort led to ISO 9001:2008 certification by Certification International Philippines, Inc. on July 6, 2015. In 2017, it achieved certification under ISO 9001:2015, which was later recertified and remained valid until July 15, 2021.

In December 2018, the Department of Health granted DJNRMH a license to operate as a *Level III General Hospital*, effectively elevating it to the status of a teaching and training medical center. Subsequently, on April 12, 2019, *Republic Act No. 11286* was signed into law, increasing the hospital's authorized bed capacity from 200 to 800 beds.

Given the hospital's transformation from a single-purpose sanitarium to a fully integrated, multi-service medical institution and Level III teaching and training hospital, this proposed legislation seeks to confer upon it a name that accurately reflects its present stature and functions.

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


HON. OSCAR G. MALAPITAN

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 965

Introduced by Rep. Oscar G. Malapitan

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,