

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. **2877**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MAMMOGRAPHY AND BREAST CANCER CENTER
IN NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Women are regarded as crucial partners in nation-building through their multi-faceted and varied roles such as, but not limited to, being mothers, community workers, health professionals, and teachers. Affirmative and proactive programs, projects, and activities directed to enhance their physical well-being, however, are still much needed.

Research studies conducted by the Department of Health show that many Filipino women of all ages develop breast cancer and die of it due to a number of reasons including the failure to have themselves checked up regularly. Another cause is the lack of health facility where they can access cancer healthcare. Even if there are existing centers, the distance and costs deter them from undergoing such a vital medical procedure.

Unfortunately, the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer among Asian countries, and the 9th highest in the world today.¹ According to the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology (PSMO), three out of 100 Filipino women can develop breast cancer before they reach the age of 75. It is further reported that breast cancer accounts for 16 percent of all

¹ Argenal, Rene N.; Baterna, Margie L.; Peña, Christine F; Ravina, Jovita N.; and Sionzon, Marian R. 2019. "Risk Factors of Breast Cancer Among Women: A Meta Analyses". 12th National Convention on Statistics. Philippine Statistics Authority.

cancer incidence in the country, and eight percent of all cancer-related deaths.²

With allocations of the Department of Health (DOH) traditionally directed at core programs, mammography and breast cancer detection services are sometimes sidelined by competing priorities. Given the rising statistics of women mortality due to breast cancer, there is an urgent need to have such medical assistance and infrastructure made accessible to as many women as possible.

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



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/291078/breast-cancer-is-the-most-prevalent-in-ph>

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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 “*Novaliches Mammography and Breast Cancer Center Act*”

SECTION 2. *Novaliches Mammography and Breast Cancer Center.* – There is hereby established a mammography and breast cancer center in Novaliches, Quezon City to be named the Novaliches Mammography and Breast Cancer Center hereinafter referred to as the ‘Center’.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* – The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide the amount of one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) for the construction and establishment of such center. The amount needed for the continued operations of the Novaliches Mammography and Breast Cancer Center shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Health (DOH).

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared or held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All general and special laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation and administrative regulation, or any parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,