

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4164



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines, imposing a heavy burden not only on patients and their families but also on the nation's health system. Despite advances in medical science, access to comprehensive cancer care and research facilities remains limited, especially for the underprivileged. The burden is even heavier for those in the provinces, where specialized treatment centers are scarce or nonexistent.

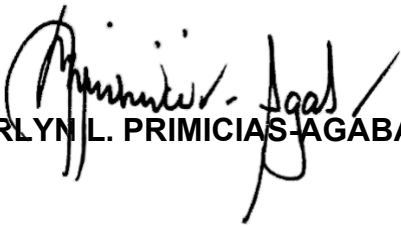
The State, under *Section 15, Article II* of the *1987 Constitution*, is mandated to "protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." In line with this, *Republic Act No. 11215*, or the "*National Integrated Cancer Control Act*," established a national framework for cancer prevention, treatment, and research, and recognized the need for specialized institutions to address the growing cancer burden.

However, the current landscape reveals a gap in the availability of a national center that can serve as the country's primary institution for cancer care, research, training, and policy development. While specialty centers have been established in various regions pursuant to *Republic Act No. 11959*, or the "*Regional Specialty Centers Act*," there is a compelling need for a central institution that can lead, coordinate, and elevate the standards of cancer management nationwide.

This bill seeks to create the National Cancer Center of the Philippines, which will serve as the primary institution for cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, research, and education. The Center will not only provide direct medical services to patients, especially the poor and marginalized, but will also foster scientific research, professional training, and public awareness on cancer and related diseases.

By establishing the National Cancer Center of the Philippines, this measure aims to bring the country closer to the vision of accessible, equitable, and high-quality cancer care for all Filipinos, while advancing the frontiers of medical research and public health.

In view of the urgent need to address the growing burden of cancer in the country, the immediate approval of this bill is respectfully sought.



MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4164**

Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL CANCER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES,
DEFINING ITS POWERS, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNDING, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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.**"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to secure the well-being of the people by providing them with specialized health services that target the eradication of deadly diseases in the country. Towards this end and in line with the policy declared in the Republic Act. No. 11215, otherwise known as National Integrated Cancer Control Act, a world-class center that will specifically focus on the study of the prevention and treatment of this disease shall be established.

SECTION 3. Creation of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines. There is hereby created a trust, for the benefit primarily of the Filipino people, under the name and style of "National Cancer Center of the Philippines."

The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, composed of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The Director of the hospital shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

The six (6) appointive members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation for a period of four (4) years and until their successors have been appointed. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines, and the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term. The Board of Trustees of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall elect a Chairman among themselves, who shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.

The Director of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall serve as Vice Chairman of the Board. The Director shall act as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines with authority, among others, to appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of the personnel thereof, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees and in accordance with Republic Act No. 10149, otherwise known as the "GOCC Governance Act of 2011".

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

SECTION 4. Purpose and Objectives. The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall cooperate with the cancer centers, established through R.A. No. 11215, to carry out its purpose and objectives laid down in Sec. 10 of R.A. No. 11215, and shall have the following purpose and objectives:

- a) To construct, establish, operate and maintain a world-class specialized cancer hospital for the public welfare;
- b) To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research on the prevention of cancer and the care and/or treatment of cancer patients and related activities, including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, convention, seminars and conferences;
- c) To stimulate and/or underwrite scientific researches on the biological,

demographic, social, economic physiological aspects of cancer, its abnormalities and control; and gather, compile, and publish the findings of such research for public dissemination;

- d) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, treatment and control of cancer, to arouse, enhance and develop public interest on cancer awareness, general health and physical fitness;
- e) To encourage and/or undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of cancer healthcare services, and related activities;
- f) To assist universities, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of cellular anomalies, to encourage advanced training on matters of, or affecting the human cell, related fields and to support educational programs of value to general health;
- g) To encourage the formation of other organizations on the national, provincial, city, municipal or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and activities for the purpose of achieving a more effective programmatic approach on the common problems relative to the objectives herein enumerated; and
- h) To extend medical services to the general public, especially the poor and less fortunate in life who are suffering from cancer.

SECTION 5. Powers of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines. The National Cancer Center of the Philippines, as corporate body acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have the following powers:

- a) To acquire and hold in any property of whatever nature of description, and to

dispose such property under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;

- b)** To contract and be contracted with;
- c)** To mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of its properties;
- d)** To solicit and receive donations, endowments and funds in the form of contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from both public and private sectors;
- e)** To open such accounts in banks and other financial institution, and to disburse such funds or invest the same as the Board may direct to accomplish or advance the purposes or interest of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines;
- f)** To invite foreign cancer specialists and similar experts in various medical fields to train the personnel or trainees or residents of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines;
- g)** To send the personnel of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines to research institutes, medical institutes or universities for advance training or observation and to attend international or regional conventions, conferences, congresses, and seminars as the Board may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines;
- h)** To adopt a set of By-Laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with law and provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines; and
- i)** To do all such other acts and things as are or may be necessary or incidental for the accomplishment of the purpose and objectives of the National Cancer

Center of the Philippines.

SECTION 6. Government Contribution. The government shall constitute the necessary land, building, equipment and facilities to the National Cancer Center of the Philippines, and shall pay such obligations for real, personal and mixed properties arising from such undertaking under a deferred payment arrangement within five (5) years, at a preferred rate of interest.

SECTION 7. Property of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines. The property of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now owned or reserved for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to the National Cancer Center of the Philippines by the Philippine 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.

SECTION 8. Assistance from Other Government Offices. The National Cancer Center of the Philippines may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned and -controlled corporations, for such assistance it may need in pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

SECTION 9. Tax Exemptions. All donations, contributions or endowments which may be made by entities or persons to the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be exempt from income and donors taxes, and the same shall be further deductible in full for purposes of computing the maximum amount deductible under Section 101 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall also be exempt from the payment of all taxes, charges and fees imposed by the government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof for a period of ten (10) years.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. An initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (Php 500,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the initial construction, operation, and maintenance of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines which shall be sourced from

the General Appropriations. Subsequent funding for the years thereafter shall be included in the General Appropriations Act under the Budgetary Support for Government Corporations.

SECTION 11. Audit. The books and accounts of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be subject to periodic auditing by the Commission on Audit (COA).

SECTION 12. Annual Report. The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall render to the President of the Philippines an annual report of its activities and recommendations.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 14. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 15. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 16. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,