

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6096**



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2021, the World Health Organization¹ (WHO) listed ischaemic heart disease, kidney diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lower respiratory infections as among the top 10 leading causes of death globally. Ischaemic heart disease was named as the world's biggest killer responsible for 13% of the world's total deaths. Lower respiratory infections remained the world's most deadly communicable disease, while kidney diseases have risen from the world's 19th leading cause of death to the 9th. On the other hand, infectious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria are the leading causes of death of children under the age of five years of age globally.²

From January to October 2023 and 2024, the Philippine Statistics Authority³ reported that ischaemic heart disease was the top cause of mortality in the Philippines while other respiratory diseases and diseases of genitourinary system also placed in the top 20 causes of mortality in the country. Meanwhile, over 60,000 children in the Philippines die annually⁴ before their fifth birthday because of complications of premature birth, intra-partum complications, and infectious diseases.

Specialty hospitals such as the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, and the Philippine Children's Medical Center which are among the best specialty health care providers in the country are all located in Metro Manila. Patients from provinces such as those coming from Negros Oriental are constrained to travel to Metro Manila in order to seek medical attention in these specialty hospitals. Patients face additional costs such as transportation, accommodation, and miscellaneous expenses. And most importantly,

¹ The top 10 causes of death, 7 August 2024 <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death> (last accessed 11 August 2025)

² Under-five mortality, March 2025, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/> (last accessed 11 August 2025)

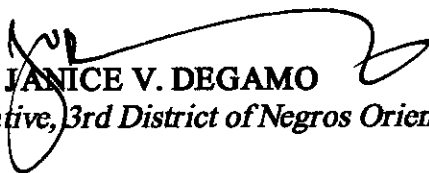
³ 2024 Causes of Death in the Philippines (Provisional as of 28 February 2025, Release date, 29 April 2025 <https://psa.gov.ph/content/2024-causes-death-philippines-provisional-28-february-2025> (last accessed 11 August 2025)

⁴ A child or youth died once every 4.4 seconds in 2021 - UN report, 13 January 2023 <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/press-releases/child-or-youth-died-once-every-44-seconds-2021-un-report> (last accessed 11 August 2025)

because of the lack of special hospitals in Negros Oriental, critical health care services for patients are delayed when it should be treated with utmost urgency.

This bill therefore seeks to provide quality, accessible, and specialized health care to the people of Negros Oriental by establishing specialized hospitals particularly the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, and Philippine Children's Medical Center in Negros Oriental in order to stay true to the State's mandate of protecting and promoting the people's right to health.

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


JANICE V. DEGAMO
Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SPECIALIZED HOSPITALS SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINE HEART
CENTER, NATIONAL KIDNEY AND TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE, LUNG CENTER
OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER IN
NEGROS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Establishment of Specialized Hospitals in Negros Oriental Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Section 11 of Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to 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. Towards this end, the State shall ensure that the people of Negros Oriental will have access to the best medical services especially specialized health care. There shall be priority for the needs of the sick, elderly, people with disabilities, women and children.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of Specialized Hospitals in Negros Oriental.* – There shall be established specialized hospitals in Negros Oriental under the direct control and supervision of Department of Health (DOH):

- a. A *Philippine Heart Center* in Negros Oriental to be known as Philippine Heart Center for Negros Oriental hereinafter referred to as PHC-Negros Oriental. The PHC-Negros Oriental shall be a constituent hospital of the Philippine Heart Center and shall be managed and operated pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 673 creating the Philippine Heart Center and shall be administered by the existing Board of Trustees of the Philippine Heart Center, hereinafter referred to as the Board;
- b. A *National Kidney and Transplant Institute* in Negros Oriental to be known as the National Kidney and Transplant Institute for Negros Oriental hereinafter referred to as NKTI-Negros Oriental. The NKTI-Negros Oriental shall be a constituent specialty hospital of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute and shall be managed and operated

pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1832 creating the National Kidney Foundation of the Philippines now known as the National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTi) and shall be administered by the existing Board of Trustees of the National Kidney Transplant Institute, hereinafter referred to as the Board;

- c. *A Lung Center of the Philippines* in Negros Oriental to be known as the Lung Center of the Philippines for Negros Oriental hereinafter referred to as LCP-Negros Oriental. The LCP-Negros Oriental shall be a constituent specialty hospital of the Lung Center of the Philippines and shall be managed and operated pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1823 creating the Lung Center of the Philippines and shall be administered by the existing Board of Trustees of the Lung Center of the Philippines, hereinafter referred to as the Board;
- d. *A Philippine Children's Medical Center* in Negros Oriental to be known as the Philippine Children's Medical Center for Negros Oriental, hereinafter referred to as the PCMC-Negros Oriental. The PCMC- Negros Oriental shall be a constituent specialty hospital of the Philippine Children's Medical Center and shall be managed and operated pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1631 creating the Lungsod ng Kabataan now known as the Philippine Children's Medical Center and shall be administered by the existing Board of Trustees of the Philippine Children's Medical Center, hereinafter referred to as the Board.
- e. *Other specialty hospitals*

SEC. 4. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Board shall determine the organizational and staffing pattern of the PHC-Negros Oriental, NKTi-Negros Oriental, LCP-Negros Oriental and PCMC-Negros Oriental, subject to the evaluation of 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 PHC-Negros Oriental, NKTi-Negros Oriental, LCP-Negros Oriental, and PCMC-Negros Oriental. The same shall apply to other specialty hospitals as may be determined by the DOH.

SEC. 5. *Tax Exemptions and Privileges.* – All existing tax exemptions and privileges of the Philippine Heart Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Children's Medical Center and other specialty hospitals shall be applicable to their Negros Oriental branches.

SEC. 6. *Program for Indigents.* – The Board shall ensure that the PHC-Negros Oriental, NKTi-Negros Oriental, LCP-Negros Oriental and PCMC-Negros Oriental 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 bed capacity.

SEC. 7. *Annual Report* – Each specialty hospital in Negros Oriental shall submit to their respective mother units, the Department of Health, the President of the

Philippines, and the Congress of the Philippines annual reports of its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, and Philippine Children's Medical Center, shall jointly issue the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Government Subsidy and Contributions.* – The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (500,000,000.00) for each specialty hospital shall be released from the National Treasury and is hereby appropriated to be used for land acquisition, construction of the facilities, purchase of equipment and fixtures, and personal services. *Provided*, that other expenses necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged from the current year's budget from the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, and Philippine Children's Medical Center. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provisions or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts of provisions not affected remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuance and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,