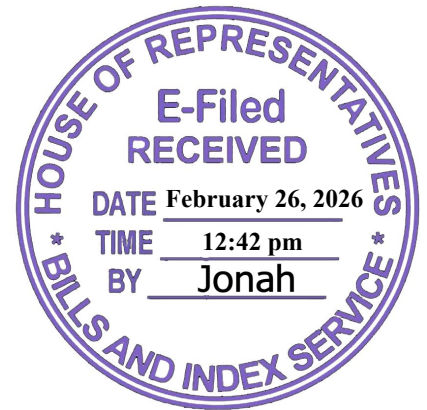


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8103



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CANCER CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL
CANCER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
PROVIDING FOR ITS GOVERNANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the Philippines and places a heavy burden on patients, families, and the health care system. While the government already has a national cancer program, many Filipinos still struggle to get timely diagnosis, advanced treatment, follow-up care, and palliative support. Outside major cities, access to specialized cancer doctors, modern equipment, and coordinated care remains very limited, leading to delayed treatment and poorer outcomes.

This bill proposes the creation of a **National Cancer Center of the Philippines** to serve as the country’s main referral hospital and center of excellence for cancer care. The Center will provide highly specialized and multidisciplinary services, support research, and train doctors, nurses, and other health workers in cancer care. It will strengthen, not replace, the existing national cancer program by setting standards, sharing expertise, and working with hospitals across the country to improve the quality of care nationwide.

By investing in a dedicated national cancer center, this measure helps ensure that Filipinos, regardless of where they live, can access quality cancer care. It promotes better survival, more humane treatment, and stronger public accountability in the use of health funds. This bill is a long-term investment in saving lives, improving care, and building a stronger health system.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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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. Creation of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines. — There is hereby created a specialty hospital and national referral, research, and training institution to be known as the National Cancer Center of the Philippines, hereinafter referred to as the “Center.”

The Center shall be attached to the Department of Health (DOH) for policy coordination and shall support and complement the implementation of the National Integrated Cancer Control Program.

SECTION 3. Corporate Powers; Nature of the Center. — The Center shall have corporate powers and shall be administered by a Board of Trustees. For the attainment and furtherance of its purposes and objectives, the Center, acting through its Board, shall have the powers pertaining to a juridical person, including, among others, the power to contract and be contracted with; acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, and dispose of property; solicit and receive donations and endowments; open bank

accounts and disburse or invest funds as the Board may direct; adopt by-laws, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with law; and do such other acts as may be necessary or incidental to its purposes.

SECTION 4. Governing Board; Composition. — The Center shall be governed by a Board of Trustees (Board), which shall direct, control, and manage its activities and properties.

The Board shall be composed of seven (7) members:

- (a) The Secretary of Health, or a duly designated representative with a rank not lower than Assistant Secretary, as Chairperson, ex officio;
- (b) The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, or a duly designated representative, ex officio;
- (c) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), or a duly designated representative, ex officio;
- (d) Two (2) medical doctors of good moral character and recognized probity with at least ten (10) years of active practice in oncology or cancer-related specialties, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines; and
- (e) Two (2) representatives from cancer-focused patient support organizations and advocacy networks, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

The foregoing composition is without prejudice to such further qualifications and integrity requirements as may be provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SECTION 5. Appointment; Term; Vacancies; Quorum. — The appointive members of the Board shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for one (1) additional term, unless otherwise provided in the IRR.

Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, and the appointee shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term.

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum to transact business, and the vote of the majority of those present in a meeting where there is a quorum shall constitute a valid and binding act of the Board.

SECTION 6. Medical Director; Chief Executive Officer. — The Center shall be headed by a Medical Director who shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer and shall be appointed by the Board. The Medical Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Center, subject to the supervision and control of the Board, and shall have authority, among others, to appoint, discipline, and remove personnel, and to fix compensation, subject to existing civil service, compensation, and other applicable laws.

SECTION 7. Purposes and Objectives. — The Center shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- (a) To establish, equip, maintain, administer, and operate a specialized hospital for the diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation, and palliation of cancer patients;
- (b) To serve as a national referral center for complex cancer cases and specialized cancer services;
- (c) To promote and conduct cancer-related clinical and public health research, including the organization and sponsorship of congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
- (d) To train and develop human resources for health, including physicians, nurses, medical technologists, pharmacists, social workers, and allied health professionals, in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and palliative care;
- (e) To provide patient navigation, psychosocial support services, and counseling for patients and their families;
- (f) To undertake public information and education initiatives on cancer prevention, screening, early detection, and treatment; and
- (g) To generate, consolidate, and manage cancer-related data and information, consistent with applicable laws, in support of evidence-based policy and program development.

SECTION 8. Assistance and Coordination with Government Offices. — The Center may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need to carry out its purposes.

SECTION 9. Property of the Center. — The property of the Center shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other property now owned or reserved for, or that may hereafter be transferred, conveyed, donated, bequeathed, or otherwise acquired by the Center from the Government, any of its instrumentalities, foreign governments, and other entities or persons, domestic or foreign, in order to carry out its purposes and objectives.

SECTION 10. Government Contribution; Site and Facilities. — The Government shall contribute the necessary land, buildings, equipment, and facilities for the establishment and operation of the Center, subject to existing laws on government property and procurement.

SECTION 11. Donations; Tax Treatment. — Donations, contributions, and endowments made to the Center shall be accepted in accordance with law. The tax treatment of such donations, including donor incentives and exemptions, shall be in accordance with the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and applicable rules and regulations.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. — The amount of One Billion Pesos (₱1,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial organization, construction, and operation of the Center, to be charged against the current appropriations of the DOH, subject to budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 13. Auditing. — The books and accounts of the Center shall be subject to audit by the Commission on Audit (COA).

SECTION 14. Annual Report; Congressional Oversight. — The Center shall submit to the DOH an annual report of its activities, audited financial statements, and such recommendations as it may deem necessary. The DOH shall furnish the Senate and the House of Representatives copies of the annual report for oversight and policy review.

SECTION 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with PhilHealth and other relevant agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the IRR to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 16. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 18. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,