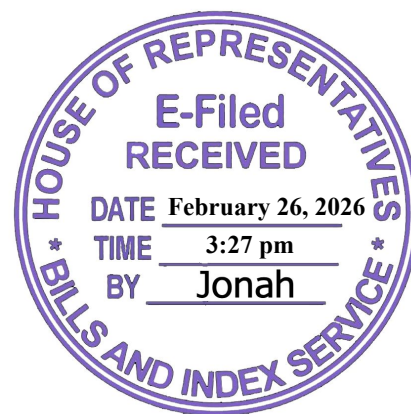


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **8143**



**Introduced by Representatives OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE and
PAOLO Z. DUTERTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Central to this mandate is the implementation of a fully-functioning healthcare system that is inclusive of the diverse religious and cultural beliefs of the Filipino people.

In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the Ministry of Health has successfully pioneered the Ibadah-Friendly Hospital (IFH) initiative. *Ibadah*, an Arabic term for worship or obedience to Allah (SWT), represents a holistic approach to healthcare. As articulated by religious experts, an IFH is not merely a facility; it is a process of the "Islamisation of health services", which means providing medical care while simultaneously helping patients perform their religious obligations and ensuring hospital management aligns with Islamic values.

Currently, these vital services are largely concentrated within the Bangsamoro Region. However, a significant population of Filipino Muslims resides in various provinces and urban centers across the country, from Metro Manila to various parts of Luzon and the Visayas. These citizens often face challenges in accessing healthcare that respects their sanctity of belief, specifically regarding Halal nutrition, gender-sensitive birthing practices, and the performance of daily prayers.

It is in this regard that this bill seeks to bridge this gap by establishing Ibadah-Friendly Hospitals and Care Centers in all Department of Health (DOH)-retained hospitals and Rural Health Units (RHUs) nationwide. By institutionalizing standards such as dedicated prayer rooms or Musallahs, Halal-certified kitchens, and modesty-protected birthing clinics, we ensure that public health is delivered in accordance with the faith and practices of our Muslim brothers and sisters.

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


HON. OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE


HON. PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **8143**

Introduced by Representatives **OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE** and
PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING IBADAH-FRIENDLY HOSPITALS AND CARE CENTERS IN ALL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-RETAINED HOSPITALS AND RURAL HEALTH
UNITS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 Ibadah-Friendly Healthcare Act of 2026.***"

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to provide a healthcare system that respects the sanctity of Islamic beliefs and practices. Public health shall be delivered in a manner consistent with these beliefs, ensuring that the "Islamisation of health services" pioneered in the Bangsamoro Region is adopted nationally to serve Filipino Muslims regardless of their geographic location.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall hereby apply:

- a) ***Ibadah*** refers to worship or obedience to Allah (SWT).
- b) ***Ibadah-Friendly Hospital (IFH)*** refers to a healthcare facility certified to provide care that assists patients in performing their religious duties while ensuring management and medical protocols align with Islamic values.
- c) ***Musallah*** refers to a dedicated prayer room or space for Islamic worship.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of Ibadah-Friendly Hospital (IFH).* – There shall be established Ibadah-Friendly Hospitals (IFHs) which shall apply to all hospitals retained by the Department of Health (DOH) and all Rural Health Units (RHUs) and birthing clinics nationwide.

The Ibadah-Friendly Hospitals (IFHs) shall have the following features:

- (a) Establishment of a *Musallah* (prayer room) and a dedicated cadaver holding area that

- respects Islamic burial preparation rites;
- (b) Maintenance of a Halal-certified kitchen and food service to ensure all meals provided to Muslim patients meet dietary religious requirements;
 - (c) Installation of Islamic signages, including *Qibla* or direction of prayer indicators in all patient rooms.
 - (d) Strict protocols to protect the privacy and modesty of women, particularly during childbirth and physical examinations. This includes the provision of appropriate hospital garments and, whenever possible, the assignment of female healthcare providers for female patients.
 - (e) Implementation of management systems that assist patients and staff in performing their daily *Ibadah* without compromising medical treatment.

SEC 5. *Integration of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Best Practices.* – The DOH shall collaborate with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Ministry of Health (MOH) and Muslim Religious Leaders to adopt the existing "Ibadah-Friendly" benchmarks and certification processes, ensuring a standardized level of care across the country.

SEC 6. *Cultural Sensitivity Training.* – The DOH, in coordination with the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), shall mandate cultural sensitivity and IFH protocol training for all healthcare workers and administrative staff in covered facilities.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with the NCMF and the BARMM Ministry of Health, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budget of the Department of Health.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,