

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9730



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING IN THE CITY OF ANTIPOLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL,
A MULTI-SPECIALTY CENTER UNDER THE AMANG RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL
MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE AMANG RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL
MEDICAL CENTER-MULTI-SPECIALTY CENTER,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life - the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."¹

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Article II, Section 15, requires the State to protect and promote the people's right to health and to instill health consciousness among them. Article XIII, Section 11 reinforces this obligation by directing the State to pursue an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, one that ensures essential goods, medical services, and other basic necessities reach every citizen at a cost they can bear.

The right to health rests on four elements: availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of health facilities, goods, and services. These pillars reflect an understanding that a functioning healthcare system goes far beyond the existence of clinics and physicians; it must respond to the social, economic, and logistical realities of the people it serves. Strengthening all four dimensions is the foundation of a just and effective public health framework.

The World Health Organization (WHO) sets a benchmark of 20 hospital beds per 10,000 persons. The Philippines, however, falls far short: Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa has noted that the country manages only 5 beds per 10,000 — a fraction of the international standard. Of roughly 1,300 hospitals nationwide, only 11.9% are found in Metro Manila and other urban areas, with the majority of beds held by private institutions.² The gap between what exists and what is needed has never been more apparent.

¹ U.S. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, 1977.

² "Philippines needs to triple hospital bed capacity — DOH". Available at: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/01/16/2414683/philippines-needs-triple-hospital-bed-capacity-doh>.

Antipolo City, home to nearly one million residents, is served by four Level 1 hospitals under the Rizal Provincial Hospital System (RPHS). Yet referral data from neighboring tertiary institutions (the Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center in Marikina City, the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, and East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City) tell a troubling story: between 30% and 52% of their admissions come from Antipolo City and surrounding Rizal municipalities. The recently inaugurated Northern Tagalog Regional Hospital (NTRH) in Rodriguez has not yet adequately altered this pattern.

These figures are not incidental. Patients from Rizal account for nearly half of the caseload in Metro Manila's referral hospitals, a strain that lays bare the geographic and structural deficiencies of the province's health network. The steady migration of Rizal patients into the capital region speaks directly to the absence of a comprehensive, multi-specialty institution within the province.

The NTRH's position in Rodriguez, moreover, places it within much easier reach of San Mateo, Montalban, and Payatas in Quezon City than of Antipolo City and the eastern towns of Rizal. Whatever its formal regional designation, the hospital in practice draws patients from northern Metro Manila and western Rizal, leaving the province's more populous interior without a comparable anchor facility.

This situation calls for a deliberate and targeted solution. As Rizal's demographic and economic center of gravity, Antipolo City is the logical site for a multi-specialty medical center. Without one, its residents and those of nearby towns will continue to absorb the burden of long commutes, overstretched referral wards, and a persistent shortage of specialized clinical services, even as the province's population and its attendant health needs continue to climb.

A Department of Health-operated multi-specialty center in Antipolo City would bring together disciplines such as cardiology, oncology, pediatrics, and geriatrics in a single, conveniently located institution. Patients requiring complex diagnoses or multi-step interventions would no longer be shuttled between distant facilities comprehensive care would be available where they live.

Ultimately, this measure will bring specialized care within reach of those who need it most, ease the financial burden that long-distance treatment places on ordinary families, and move the country meaningfully closer to fulfilling its constitutional promise of health services that are available, accessible, acceptable, and of genuine quality for every Filipino.

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


HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 11959, also known as the “Regional Specialty Centers Act”, there is hereby established in the City of Antipolo, Province of Rizal, a multi-specialty center under the Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center (ARMMC) to be known as the ARMMC-Multi-Specialty Center, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health.

SEC. 2. Any future increase in bed capacity, healthcare facilities, service capability, and human resource complement shall be based on the hospital development plan that shall be prepared by the DOH.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the *remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.*

SEC. 5. All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,