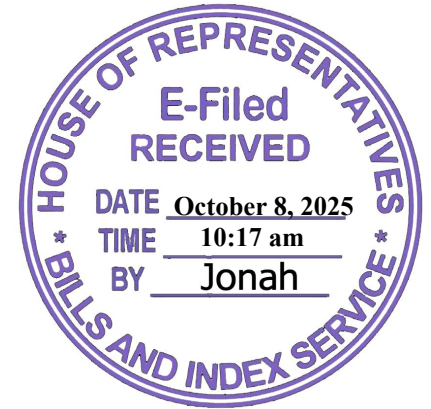




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 351



Introduced by Honorable Representatives
JOSE MANUEL TADEO “CHEL” I. DIOKNO (Akabay Partylist)
PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA (Akabay Partylist)
DADAH KIRAM ISMULA (Akabay Partylist)
ARLENE “KAKA” J. BAG-AO (Dinagat Islands)

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AND SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IRREGULARITIES SURROUNDING NONFUNCTIONAL AND UNDERUTILIZED HEALTH CENTERS FUNDED UNDER THE HEALTH FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution further provides that “[t]he State shall 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers”;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) implements the Health Facilities Enhancement Program, with the objective of constructing, rehabilitating, and upgrading barangay health stations, rural health units, and other facilities, funded by billions of pesos in annual appropriations;¹

WHEREAS, beginning in 2007, the Health Facilities Enhancement Program has been carried as a separate line item in the General Appropriations Act, underscoring its importance as a priority initiative of the DOH in support of broader health sector reforms;²

WHEREAS, over the years, its budget has expanded significantly from only ₱43.5 million in 2007 to as much as ₱34.7 billion in 2025, with a cumulative allocation of ₱241.4 billion in the past 18 years;³

WHEREAS, during the budget briefing and plenary deliberations on the 2026 General Appropriations Bill, the DOH disclosed that, including additional allocations for commodities and human resources, a total of P400 billion had been released to local government units in the last ten (10) years under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program;

WHEREAS, according to the DOH, only two hundred (200) out of the six hundred (600) health centers are functional at present, raising serious concerns about inefficiencies, wastage, and accountability in public health infrastructure spending;

¹ Department of Economy, Planning and Development, “Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), Sustainable Development Goals — Philippine Development Portal” (8 January 2019), <https://sdg.depdev.gov.ph/health-facilities-enhancement-program-hfep/>

² Ricardo P. Mira, et al., “Investing in Health Access: A Public Expenditure Review of the Philippine HFEP,” CPBRD (Cong. Planning & Budgeting Research Dept.), July 2025, <https://cpbrd.congress.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/DP2025-09-INVESTING-IN-HEALTH-ACCESS-A-PUBLIC-EXPENDITURE-REVIEW-OF-THE-PHILIPPINE-HFEP.pdf>, p. 4.

³ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, Health Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa has publicly confirmed the existence of nonfunctional health centers across the country and described it as the “flood control version” of the DOH, underscoring long-standing issues in the implementation of the Health Facilities Enhancement Program;

WHEREAS, consistent with this observation, the Commission on Audit (COA), in its 2020 to 2023 Consolidated Annual Audit Reports, has repeatedly flagged serious deficiencies in the implementation of the Health Facilities Enhancement Program. These deficiencies pertain to the incomplete, unutilized, idle, unimplemented, or delayed infrastructure projects totaling ₱2.83 billion in 2020,⁴ ₱1.92 billion in 2021,⁵ ₱2.47 billion in 2022,⁶ and ₱2.83 billion in 2023;⁷

WHEREAS, apart from the irregularities in the infrastructure projects, the COA has also reported serious issues in the purchase and use of equipment funded under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program. These include idle, unmaintained, undelivered, and uninstalled equipment in the amount of ₱1.23 billion in 2020,⁸ ₱139.76 million in 2021,⁹ ₱199.67 million in 2022,¹⁰ and ₱183.29 million in 2023;¹¹

WHEREAS, the COA has consistently opined that the irregularities in the Health Facilities Enhancement Program affect the benefits that the public

⁴ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2020, p.112.

⁵ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2021, p. 231.

⁶ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2022, p. 310.

⁷ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2023, p. 226.

⁸ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2020, p.112.

⁹ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2021, p. 234.

¹⁰ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2022, p.315.

¹¹ COA, Observations and Recommendations, Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Department of Health, CY 2023, p. 229.


could have derived from the immediate and maximum use of the facilities and the attainment of the program objectives;

WHEREAS, these irregularities undermine the objectives of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act, which guarantees equitable access to quality healthcare for all Filipinos;


WHEREAS, Congress, as the body vested with the power of the purse and oversight, has the duty to ensure that funds appropriated for public health infrastructure are properly utilized and that inefficiencies and irregularities in the implementation of the Health Facilities Enhancement Program are addressed through legislative reforms and accountability measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to direct the Committee on Public Accounts, the Committee on Health, and such other appropriate committees of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the issues and irregularities in the nonfunctional and underutilized health centers funded under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH.

Adopted,



JOSE MANUEL TADEO
“CHEL” I. DIOKNO
Akayan Representative



PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA
Akayan Representative



DADAH KIRAM ISMULA
Akayan Representative



KAKA J. BAG-AO
Dinagat Islands Representative