

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 3406



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**Introduced by Representatives PAOLO Z. DUTERTE and ERIC G. YAP**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the World Health Organization, cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide, accounting to approximately 10 million mortalities recorded in 2020 or nearly one in every six deaths. Moreover, a study undertaken by the University of the Philippines' Institute of Human Genetics shows that 189 of every 100,000 Filipinos are affected by cancer, with four Filipinos dying of the disease every hour or 96 cancer patients every day.

The government's initiative in combatting the growing and unsettling cancer epidemic is apparent as it established a National Cancer Prevention and Control Action Plan (NCPCAP) in 2015 through the Department of Health and its partner agencies. This action plan addresses cancer prevention and rehabilitation through policy and standard development, advocacy and promotion, capacity building and resource mobilization, service delivery, research and development, and information management and surveillance. Regardless of such initiatives, cancer still remains widespread in the country in addition to lack of facilities that will carry out a concrete action plan in the preventing or treating the said illness, given the medical expenses incurred for its treatment.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the National Cancer Center which duties include, but are not limited to, establishing a specialized hospital for diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and/or relief of cancer patients; promoting medical research relative to the prevention and treatment of cancer including sponsorship and conduct of relevant

congresses, convention, seminars and conferences; and create awareness on cancer prevention, treatment and control through public information dissemination.

While there are instances where the war on cancer seems an unwinnable battle, the government is tasked with the constitutional mandate 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.

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



PAOLO Z. DUTERTE



ERIC G. YAP

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CANCER CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE**  
**NATIONAL CANCER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. *Creation of the Philippine National Cancer Center.*** - There is hereby created, under the supervision of the Department of Health, the National Cancer Center of the Philippines.

**SEC. 2. *Board of Trustees.*** - The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be governed and its activities and properties be directed, controlled and managed, by a Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of a Chairman and six (6) members, all of whom to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department of Health.

The members of the Board of Trustees shall serve for a period of four (4) years and until their successors shall have been appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Board, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member.

The Board shall elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be presiding officer of the Board of Trustees. The Medical Director of the Philippine National Cancer Center shall serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Four (4) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact business and any decision of such four (4) members on any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines.

**SEC. 3. *Government Contribution.*** - The Government shall contribute the necessary land, building, equipment and facilities to the National Cancer Center of the Philippines.

**SEC. 4. *Property of the Center.*** - The property of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now owned or reserved for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to the National Cancer Center of the Philippines by the government, its branches and instrumentalities, any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien or domestic, in order to carry out its purposes and objectives as set forth herein.

**SEC. 5. *Purposes and Objectives.*** - The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a. To construct, establish, equip, maintain, administer and operate a specialized hospital for diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and/or relief of cancer patients;
- b. To promote medical research relative to the prevention and treatment of cancer including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, convention, seminars and conferences;
- c. To create awareness on cancer prevention, treatment and control through public information dissemination;
- d. To encourage the training physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of services, and related activities;
- e. To assist universities, colleges, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of cancer and encourage advanced training and specialization on matters of, or affecting cancer;
- f. To provide psychosocial support services and counseling to the patient and family members; and
- g. To consolidate the information from other related organizations for the purpose of aiding government's efforts, policies and programs relative to the purposes and objectives enumerated herein.

**SEC. 6. *Powers.*** - For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above enumerated purposes and objectives, the National Cancer Center of the Philippines, acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have the following orders and functions, among other things:

- a. To contract and be contracted with;

- b. To adopt by-laws, rules and regulations not contrary to law to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines;
- c. To purchase, receive, take or grant, hold, convey, sell, lease, pledge, mortgage and otherwise deal with such property of whatever nature the transaction of the lawful business of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines may reasonably and necessarily require subject to the limitations prescribed by law;
- d. To invite foreign cancer specialists and similar experts in the various medical fields to train the personnel or trainees or residents of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines;
- e. To advance the training of personnel of the Philippine conventions, conferences, congresses, seminars to accomplish the purpose and objectives of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines;
- f. To exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines.

**SEC. 7. *Tax Exemption on Donations.*** - All donations, contributions or endowment which may be made by entities or persons to the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be exempt from income and gift taxes.

The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be exempt from the payment of all taxes, charges and fees imposed by the government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof.

**SEC. 8. *Assistance from Government Offices.*** - The National Cancer Center of the Philippines may call upon any department, bureau, offices, and agency or instrumentally of the Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of purposes and objectives.

**SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of one billion pesos is hereby appropriated for the initial operation of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines which shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the necessary amount to support the continued operation and maintenance of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 10. *Auditing.*** - The books of accounts of the National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall be subject to periodic auditing by the Commission on Audit.

**SEC. 11. *Annual Report.*** - The National Cancer Center of the Philippines shall render to the Department of Health an annual report on its operations and accomplishments.

**SEC. 12. *Effect of Dissolution.*** - If for any reason, the National Cancer Center of the Philippines is dissolved, its properties and assets remaining at the time of such dissolution shall revert to the Philippine Government for disposition in accordance with law.

**SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,