

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 492**



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**INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

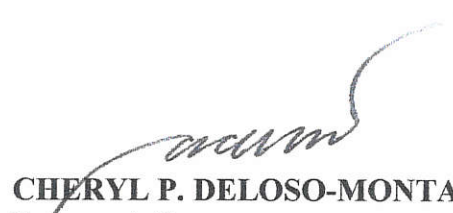
This bill, which was filed during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, seeks to convert President Ramon Magsaysay Provincial Hospital which is situated in the Municipality of Iba in the Province of Zambales into a 300-bed capacity tertiary public hospital to be known as the Ramon Magsaysay Regional Medical Center and upgrade and modernize the existing facilities of the said health institution in order that it will become more responsive to the health needs not just of the people of the Second District of Zambales but also of the entire Region III.

The present set-up of the said medical facility limits its capacity to effectively and efficiently provide and address the pressing health concerns of the people of Zambales. It is common knowledge in the Province of Zambales that when a patient needs medical intervention or procedure to avert an impending medical crisis, he/she must travel for at least an hour or at least 60 kilometers to the nearest tertiary hospital. This eats up a large chunk of the patient's budget which should instead be intended for his/her medical, surgical or therapeutic interventions.

Advanced medical and surgical procedures cannot be performed in the existing provincial hospital because of its limited and dilapidated facilities – a fact that deters medical practitioners from utilizing its facilities and services. The limited financial resource of the provincial government to respond to the needs of this medical institution is a hindrance to the improvement and modernization of the said hospital.

It is in full cognizance of Article II, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution which provides that the "State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" and Article XIII, Section 11 which states that the state shall "...endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost" that this bill is being filed.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA**  
Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zambales

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**AN ACT**  
**CONVERTING THE PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL**  
**IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES INTO THE RAMON**  
**MAGSAYSAY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, UPGRADING AND MODERNIZING**  
**ITS FACILITIES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, 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 ***Ramon Magsaysay Regional Medical Center Charter of 2019***.

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health, instill health consciousness among the people and advance the integrated and comprehensive approach to health development and research.

**SEC. 3. Conversion, Upgrading and Modernization into a Regional Medical Center.** – The Ramon Magsaysay Provincial Hospital in the Municipality of Iba, Province of Zambales is hereby converted into a 300-bed capacity, tertiary public hospital to be known as the Ramon Magsaysay Regional Medical Center and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Medical Center. The Medical Center shall upgrade and modernize its existing equipment and facilities to ensure that it shall be responsive to the health needs of the people of Region III. It shall, likewise, endeavor to be abreast with the latest available biomedical and research facilities that shall be made available to patients at minimal cost.

**SEC. 4. Scope and Coverage of the Regional Medical Center.** – For purposes of this Act, the scope and coverage of Regional Medical Center shall be the treatment and study of all cardio-pulmonary, gastro-intestinal, neurologic, endocrinologic, integumentary, musculoskeletal and other diseases of infectious, non-infectious or autoimmune nature with special attention to diseases that present differently in this geographical region as compared to other regions. *Provided, That the Department of Health (DOH) may include such other pertinent diseases in consultation with the Advisory Board that is herein created.*

**SEC. 5. Organization.** – The Regional Medical Center shall be organized as follows:

(a) The Regional Medical Center shall be operated as a special project of the DOH in Region III. The Secretary of Health shall promulgate policies for and exercise overall supervision over the Medical Center;

(b) The Medical Center shall be headed by a Medical Director who shall be assisted by two (2) assistant directors, all of whom shall be appointed by the Secretary of the DOH. The Medical Director shall be responsible for the implementation of policies and the immediate management of the programs and operations of the Institute; and

(c) The assistant directors shall assist the Medical Director in the performance of his operational duties, and shall perform such other functions as may be directed by the Medical Director. One (1) assistant director shall be tasked to overlook the policy, planning and monitoring activities of the Institute, while the other shall be responsible for support staff services.

**SEC. 6. Powers and Functions.** – The Regional Medical Center shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) Undertake research activities in the diagnosis, control and prevention of diseases that are major causes of mortality and morbidity in Region III;

(b) Conduct clinical trials aimed at better understanding and control of diseases;

(c) Conduct regular training courses for medical and paramedical personnel in the control of common diseases not just in the Region but in the country as well;

(d) Provide high-quality tertiary care to both inpatients and outpatients suffering from tropical diseases included within the scope of the Institute's research activities;

(e) Participate in technical cooperation program in coordination with the DOH's Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in research activities in the diagnosis, control and prevention of tropical diseases;

(f) Apply for, receive and accept bequests, grants and donation of funds, equipment, materials and services needed for the attainment of its objectives; and

(g) Perform such other related activities as may be assigned by the DOH.

**SEC. 7. Personnel.** – The Regional Medical Center shall have its technical and administrative support. The officers and employees of the Medical Center shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health, upon recommendation of the Advisory Board, in accordance with existing laws governing such. Consultants may be drawn from the public and private sectors on consultancy or contractual basis and shall be granted honoraria or allowances at such amounts as may be determined in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

**SEC. 8. Advisory Board.** – There shall be in the Medical Center an Advisory Board to be administered under the direction of the Secretary of Health to be composed of the following officials or their duly designated representatives:

(a) The Secretary of the DOH or the duly designated representative;

(b) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology or the duly designated representative;

(c) The Medical Director of the Medical Center;

(d) One (1) representative from the association of medical research organizations to be appointed by the Secretary of Health; and

(e) One (1) representative from the Philippine Medical Association.  
The functions of the Advisory Board shall be:

(1) Formulate and recommend to the Secretary of Health policies, programs, standards and guidelines for the effective and efficient operation of the Medical Center;

(2) Review, endorse and recommend to the Secretary of Health the annual budget plan;

(3) Advise the Medical Center on the creation and implementation of its vision and missions;

(4) Report annually to the Secretary of Health on its activities and, whenever necessary, make recommendations in relation to the performance of the Medical Center; and

(5) Recommend to the Secretary of Health the appointments of officers, personnel and consultants of the Medical Center.

**SEC. 9. *Biomedical Research Functions.*** – The functions of the Medical Center involving biomedical research will be undertaken together with applicable appropriations, records, equipment, property and such personnel as may be necessary. *Provided, that,* the conduct of any biomedical research in the Medical Center shall be upon the approval of an ethics review committee created for the purpose.

**SEC. 10. *Funding.*** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's appropriation funds necessary for the implementation of this Act which shall be charged against the current year's unappropriated balance of the Department of Health. An appropriation of one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year succeeding the implementation of this Act and fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) thereafter for four (4) years or until the provisions of this Act are fully implemented is hereby set aside for the purpose of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the Ramon Magsaysay Regional Medical Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the Republic of the Philippines.

**SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause*** – Batas Pambansa No. 78 and other related laws are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

**SEC. 12. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision of this Act may be declared invalid or inoperable, the remaining provision hereof that are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

***Approved,***