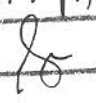


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
**SEVENTEETH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2187

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
01 AUG 2016	
DATE:	
TIME:	3:30 PM
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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**Introduced by Honorable Florida P. Robes**

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks the establishment of a hospital within Central Luzon that will cater to the medical and health needs of Overseas Filipino Workers and Seafarers as well as their families. This is pursuant to State policy guaranteeing the right of people to health by ensuring that essential goods, health and other services are available at affordable cost.

The country has continuously relied on overseas labor and remittance flows. Thus, it is but apt that the State reciprocates the services and sacrifices of Filipinos working abroad in all kinds of professions as well as seafarers by providing services and programs that will benefit them and their families. Unfortunately, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), which is the focal government agency tasked to protect and promote the interest of member-OFWs, does not have a medical service program in place. There is though one hospital in Manila which caters to seafarers, the Seamen's Hospital, which is operated by the Associated Marine Officers' Union of the Philippines which is a private entity. Other OFWs do not have that kind of facility. As such, the government must intervene. Hence, the approval of this bill is immediate and necessary.

  
**FLORIDA P. ROBES**

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

**SEVENTEETH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2137

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**Introduced by Honorable Florida P. Robes**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFW AND SEAFARERS HOSPITAL WITHIN  
CENTRAL LUZON AND 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.** There shall be established a hospital with a minimum of 100 bed capacity to be known as Central Luzon OFW and Seafarers Hospital hereinafter referred to as the Hospital.

**SEC. 2.** The hospital shall be located in a site based on accessibility and proximity to be determined and agreed by all local government units within the territorial jurisdiction.

**SEC. 3.** The hospital shall provide free or subsidized pre-employment medical exams of Filipino workers and seafarers who want to work abroad as well as medical and health care for the families of OFWs and seafarers.

**SEC. 4.** The Hospital shall be under the full administrative and technical supervision of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and accredited by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Maritime Industry Authority.

**SEC. 5.** The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the membership fees and contributions of OWWA members and to be complemented with the appropriations for the OWWA and Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Hospital shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 6.** The Secretary of DOH and Administrator of OWWA shall promulgate within sixty (60) days the Implementing Rules and Regulations that shall be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified.

**SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof, shall not be repealed or modified.

**SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,