

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 2593

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
DATE:	<u>08 AUG 2016</u>
TIME:	<u>10:22 am</u>
BY:	<u>peti</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative **Vilma Santos-Recto**  
6th District of Batangas

**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CANCER CENTER, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**Explanatory Note**

Malignant neoplasm also known as cancer ranks third, after heart and vascular diseases, in the list of top ten leading causes of mortality in the Philippines today. A report of the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) states that one in every ten registered deaths in the country is attributable to cancer.<sup>1</sup> Global annual death toll due to cancer is also high at 11 million. The said number is projected to reach 17 million in 2030.<sup>2</sup>

Cancer occurs when human cells undergo an abnormal growth that forms a tumor and spreads throughout the body. It comes in different forms and targets different parts of the human body. The most prevalent cases affecting the Filipinos are lung, breast, colon, cervical, liver and prostate cancers. Cancer chooses no one. It occurs to both men and women, young and old. Seventy-five percent (75%) of cancer patients in the country are from ages 50 years and above while 3.2% belong to the pediatric age bracket of 0 to 14 years.<sup>3</sup>

Cancer statistics in the country are very alarming. Nine out of ten smokers die of lung cancer while non-smokers who are most likely double the smoking population have increased risks of acquiring the disease.<sup>4</sup> Sixteen percent (16%) of a total of 50,000 reported cases of breast cancer in 2010 resulted to death.<sup>5</sup> Twelve (12) Filipino women die of cervical cancer each day with 6,000 new cases being diagnosed each year while almost 20% in every 100,000 Filipino men develop prostate cancer.<sup>6</sup> Ninety-five (95) out of 100 liver cancer patients have a high chance of dying.<sup>7</sup>

However, in spite of the above-mentioned cancer statistics, the Philippines does not have a specialized national hospital to cater to cancer patients in the country.

<sup>1</sup> Philippine Statistical Authority. Accessed at <https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Malignant%20Neoplasm%20%28Cancer%29%20in%20the%20Philippines%202011-2013%20%281%29.pdf> on July 11, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.philstar.com/cebu-lifestyle/2015/05/04/1451051/top-10-common-cancers-philippines>, accessed on July 11, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> See "liver Cancer Could Kill 40 Filipinos a Day by 2030", Rappler. Accessed at <http://www.rappler.com/nation/49678-philippine-hepatitis-liver-cancer-summit> on July 11, 2016.

It is in this regard that this bill aims to create a Philippine Cancer Center that will specialize in cancer treatments including among others chemotherapy, radiation and cobalt therapy. The Philippine Cancer Center shall also develop programs that would address the prevention and early detection of cancer to lower the risks of developing cancer among the Filipino population. The same cancer center shall also serve as a research and training institution that will specialize in cancer prevention, detection and treatment.

The creation of the Philippine Cancer Center is also seen as a good mechanism to attract the best cancer specialists in the country to render service for cancer patients with professional fees at public hospital rates.

This bill also provides for government subsidy to the Philippine Cancer Center in the same manner that the state provides subsidies to the Philippine Heart Center, Philippine Lung Center and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute.

With the creation of the Philippine Cancer Center, it is hoped that Filipinos fighting the deadly disease would be able to avail of specialized care at a subsidized cost. We hope that this will be a legacy that this administration can leave to the Filipino people.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vilma Santos-Recto', written in a cursive style.

**VILMA SANTOS-RECTO**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 2593

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Introduce by Representative **Vilma Santos Recto**  
6<sup>th</sup> District of Batangas

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AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CANCER CENTER, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Cancer Center*  
2 *Act of 2016*”.

3           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to secure  
4 the well-being of its people by providing them with specialized health services and address the  
5 increasing incidences of deadly diseases like cancer in the country. Towards this end, the State  
6 shall establish a specialized public hospital for the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer.

7           **SEC. 3. Philippine Cancer Center.** – There is hereby created a trust, for the benefit  
8 primarily of the Filipino people, under the name and style of “Philippine Cancer Center”.

9           The Philippine Cancer Center shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, composed of  
10 seven (7) members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The Director of the  
11 Center shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

12           The six appointive members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation  
13 for a period of four (4) years and until their successors have been appointed. Any vacancy in the  
14 Board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines, and the appointee shall  
15 serve for the unexpired term. The Board of Trustees of the Philippine Cancer Center shall elect a  
16 Chairman from among themselves, who shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.

17           The Director of the Philippine Cancer Center shall serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board.  
18 The Director shall act as the chief executive officer of the Philippine Cancer Center, with  
19 authority, among others, to appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of the personnel thereof,  
20 subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees and in accordance with Republic Act No. 10149,  
21 otherwise known as the “GOCC Governance Act of 2011”.

22           Four (4) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact business  
23 and any decision made by four (4) members on any matter duly presented to the Board of  
24 Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the Philippine Cancer Center.

1           **SEC. 4. Purpose and Objectives.** – The Philippine Cancer Center shall have the following  
2 purpose and objectives:

- 3           a. To construct, establish, operate and maintain a cancer center for the public welfare,  
4           including a specialized cancer hospital;
- 5           b. To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research on the prevention of cancer  
6           and the care and/or treatment of cancer patients and related activities, including  
7           sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and  
8           conferences;
- 9           c. To stimulate and/or underwrite scientific researches on the biological, demographic,  
10           social, economic, physiological aspects of cancer, its abnormalities and control; and  
11           gather, compile, and publish the findings of such researches for public dissemination;
- 12           d. To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information  
13           on the prevention, treatment and control of cancer, to arouse, enhance and develop  
14           public interest on cancer awareness, general health and physical fitness;
- 15           e. To encourage and/or undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical  
16           technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct  
17           and implementation of cancer healthcare services, and related activities;
- 18           f. To assist universities, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of cellular  
19           anomalies, to encourage advanced training on matters of, or affecting the human cell,  
20           and related fields and to support educational programs of value to general health;
- 21           g. To encourage the formation of other organization on the national, provincial, city,  
22           municipal or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and activities for  
23           the purpose of achieving a more effective programmatic approach on the common  
24           problems relative to the objectives herein enumerated; and
- 25           h. To extend medical services to the general public, especially the poor and less  
26           fortunate in life who are suffering from cancer.

27           **SEC. 5. Powers of the Philippine Cancer Center.** – The Philippine Cancer Center, as a  
28 corporate body acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have the following powers:

- 29           a. To acquire and hold in any property of whatever nature or description, and to dispose  
30           of such property under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;
- 31           b. To contract and be contracted with;
- 32           c. To mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of its properties;
- 33           d. To solicit and receive donations, endowments and funds in the form of contributions,  
34           whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors;
- 35           e. To open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and to disburse such  
36           funds or invest the same as the Board may direct to accomplish or advance the  
37           purposes or interest of the Philippine Cancer Center;

- 1 f. To invite foreign cancer specialists and similar experts in the various medical fields to  
2 train the personnel or trainees or residents of the Philippine Cancer Center;
- 3 g. To send the personnel of the Philippine Cancer Center to research institutes, medical  
4 institutes or universities for advance training or observation and to attend  
5 international or regional conventions, conferences, congresses, seminars as the Board  
6 may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the Philippine  
7 Cancer Center;
- 8 h. To adopt a set of by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with law and the  
9 provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the  
10 Philippine Cancer Center; and
- 11 i. To do all such other acts and things as are or may be necessary or incidental for the  
12 accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the Philippine Cancer Center.

13 **SEC. 6. *Government Contribution.*** - The Government shall constitute the necessary land,  
14 building, equipment and facilities, to the Philippine Cancer Center, and shall pay such  
15 obligations for real, personal and mixed properties arising from such undertaking under a  
16 deferred payment arrangement within five (5) years, at a preferred rate of interest.

17 **SEC. 7. *Property of the Center.*** The Property of the Philippine Cancer Center shall  
18 consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now owned or reserved for, or  
19 may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to, the Philippine Cancer  
20 Center by the Philippine Government, its branches and instrumentalities, any foreign  
21 government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien or domestic, in order  
22 to carry out its purposes and objectives as set forth herein.

23 **SEC. 8. *Assistance from Other Government Offices.*** - The Philippine Cancer Center may  
24 call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including  
25 government-owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit  
26 of its purposes and objectives.

27 **SEC. 9. *Tax Exemptions.*** - All donations, contributions or endowments which may be  
28 made by entities or persons to the Philippine Cancer Center shall be exempt from income and  
29 donor's taxes, and the same shall be further deductible in full for purposes of computing the  
30 maximum amount deductible under Section 101 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997,  
31 as amended.

32 The Philippine Cancer Center shall also be exempt from the payment of all taxes,  
33 charges and fees imposed by the Government or any political subdivision or instrumentality  
34 thereof for a period of ten (10) years.

35 **SEC. 10. *Appropriation.*** - The fund requirement necessary for the initial operation and  
36 maintenance of the Philippine Cancer Center shall be sourced from the Contingent Fund.  
37 Subsequent subsidy for the years thereafter shall be included in the General Appropriations Act  
38 under the Budgetary Support for Government Corporations.

1           **SEC. 11. *Audit.*** - The books and accounts of the Philippine Cancer Center shall be  
2 subject to periodic auditing by the Commission on Audit.

3           **SEC. 12. *Annual Report.*** - The Philippine Cancer Center shall render to the President of  
4 the Philippines an annual report of its activities and recommendations.

5           **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety days (90) after the  
6 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health and the Department of Budget and Management  
7 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

8           **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared  
9 unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

10           **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts  
11 thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
12 modified accordingly.

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

Approved,