



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

'22 JUL -7 P2 :01

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 72

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

**AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PHILIPPINE
ORTHOPEDIC CENTER, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE
FACILITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) is the only specialized orthopedic government hospital in the country. It is a 700-bed tertiary hospital under the Department of Health tasked to provide quality orthopedic and rehabilitation services relating to musculoskeletal disorder and related conditions. It also serves as a training center for orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, physiatrists, pathologists and other paramedical personnel.¹

The POC, like other government owned hospitals in the country, suffers from lack of medical equipment and facilities needed to provide quality healthcare services.

In fact, the Department of Health (DOH) admitted that no “major renovation or improvement has taken place” in the POC since the

¹ <http://www.poc.doh.gov.ph/index.php/9-transparency/about-us>, last accessed on 25 May 2022.

construction of the hospital's main building along Banawe Avenue, Quezon City in 1963 "primarily due to budgetary constraints".²

With the increasing orthopedic and trauma cases, it is high time that the government initiate the modernization and upgrade of the POC.

This bill proposes to modernize and revitalize POC through the repair, rehabilitation and construction of necessary facilities and the acquisition of the necessary hospital equipment. The undersigned envisions a Philippine Orthopedic Center that provides world class trauma and orthopedic care accessible to all.

For these reasons, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

² <https://www.change.org/p/president-benigno-simeon-aquino-iii-stop-the-privatization-of-the-philippine-orthopedic-center>, accessed last 25 May 2022.

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*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
2 *“Philippine Orthopedic Center Modernization Act”*.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy
5 of the State to modernize the health care delivery system to a level
6 where it can fully and effectively perform its constitutional mandate to
7 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
8 consciousness among them.

9
10 Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of
11 the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC), which is the country’s only
12 tertiary specialty hospital under the Department of Health tasked to
13 provide quality orthopedic, rehabilitation, and other services relating to
14 musculoskeletal disorder and related conditions.

15

1 **SEC. 3. *POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Council.*** – In
2 order to properly execute the modernization of POC, there is hereby
3 created a POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Council (“Council”)
4 composed of the Secretary of Health as its Ex-Officio Chairman, the
5 POC Medical Center Chief as Co-Chairman and five (5) members
6 consisting of representatives from academic and medical communities
7 in the field of orthopedic medicine as may be determined by the
8 Secretary of Health.

9
10 **SEC. 4. *POC Modernization Plan.*** – Within six (6) months from
11 the effectivity of this Act, the Council shall establish a POC
12 Modernization Plan (“Plan”).

13
14 The Plan shall principally be a re-tooling of POC with modern
15 equipment and facilities, including but not limited to, procurement of
16 the latest and most up-to-date medical instruments, tools and apparatus;
17 repair major areas which need to be rehabilitated such as patient rooms
18 and wards, operating rooms, lavatory areas and comfort rooms and
19 other physical facilities; and repair and repainting of POC buildings
20 and its environment.

21
22 The Council must formulate the Plan, subject to the following
23 considerations:

- 24
25 a) It must undertake the repair and rehabilitation of the POC
26 to be a premier tertiary specialty hospital, referral center,
27 and training institute;
- 28
29 b) It must upgrade, modernize, acquire and procure state-of-
30 the-art medical equipment, and the latest model of critical
31 apparatus and instruments;
- 32
33 c) It must involve renovation and modernization of its
34 facilities and the application of new technologies to
35 improve the hospital’s capabilities in providing timely and
36 reliable medical services for its patients; and
37

1 d) It must render quality health and medical care services to
2 indigent patients by maintaining seventy percent (70%)
3 allocation of beds for government-sponsored patients.
4

5 In addition to the Plan, the bed capacity of POC shall be increased
6 from seven hundred (700) to one thousand (1,000) hospital beds.
7

8 **SEC. 5. *POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Fund.*** - There is
9 hereby created the POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Fund which
10 shall be used exclusively to fund the modernization plan provided
11 under this Act.
12

13 The initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos
14 (PhP500,000,000) to comprise the said fund shall be included in the
15 General Appropriations Act of the year immediately following the
16 approval of this Act.
17

18 The total amount allocated herein shall be used exclusively for
19 the repair, rehabilitation, renovation of the POC, the procurement of
20 hospital materials, equipment, furniture and fixtures pursuant to the
21 program and guidelines as determined by the Council.
22

23 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DOH shall,
24 within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, issue the rules and
25 regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.
26

27 **SEC. 7. *Annual Report.*** - The Council shall submit to the Office
28 of the President and Congress, through the House and Senate
29 Committees on Health, an annual report on the outcome and progress
30 of its activities.
31

32 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - Should any provision or part of
33 this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions
34 and parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones,
35 shall remain in full force and effect.
36

1 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances,
2 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this
3 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
6 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
7 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,