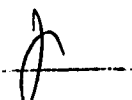


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

'21 MAR -2 P6:15

SENATE
S. B. No. 2083

RECEIVED



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

Last year, 2020, the POC celebrated its 75th founding anniversary. But like other government owned hospitals in the country, it suffers from lack of medical equipment and facilities needed to provide quality healthcare services. Incidentally, the Department of Health (DOH) admitted that no “major renovation or improvement has taken place” in the POC since the construction of the hospital’s main building along Banawe Avenue, Quezon City in 1963 “primarily due to budgetary constraints”.²

The state of our public hospitals mirrors the country’s public health care system and critical to uplifting and reforming the sector is modernizing and upgrading public health facilities that service majority of our population, especially the poor. In terms of orthopedic care,

¹ <http://www.poc.doh.gov.ph/index.php/9-transparency/about-us>, last accessed on 26 April 2020.

² <https://www.change.org/p/president-benigno-simeon-aquino-iii-stop-the-privatization-of-the-philippine-orthopedic-center>, last accessed on 26 April 2020.

modernizing the POC is a step towards mending the broken bones of our public healthcare system — one that has been crippled for the longest time.³

With the increase in orthopedic and trauma cases in the country, the government should prioritize modernizing and upgrading the POC. When modernized, it will be better equipped to serve the poorest of the poor.⁴

Therefore, to meet the ever increasing demand and to provide quality health services, this bill proposes to modernize and revitalize POC through the repair, rehabilitation and construction of necessary health equipment and facilities. 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

³ Feature Article in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center website, accessed last July 15, 2019.

⁴ *Ibid.*

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**AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PHILIPPINE
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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 Rehabilitation and Modernization Act of*
3 *2021”.*

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

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

16
17 **SEC. 3. Objective.** - There shall be developed a POC
18 Modernization Plan which shall have the following objectives:
19
20

- 1 a) Undertake the repair and rehabilitation of the POC to be a
2 premier specialty tertiary orthopedic hospital, referral center,
3 and training institute;
4
- 5 b) Upgrade, modernize, acquire and procure state-of-the-art
6 medical equipment, the latest model of critical apparatus,
7 instruments, the renovation and modernization of its facilities
8 and the application of the new technologies to improve the
9 hospital's capabilities in providing timely and reliable medical
10 services for its patients; and
11
- 12 c) Render quality health and medical care services to indigent
13 patients by maintaining seventy percent (70%) allocation of
14 beds for government-sponsored patients.
15

16 **SEC. 4. POC Modernization Plan.** - The POC Modernization Plan
17 shall principally be a re-tooling of POC with modern equipment and
18 facilities, including but not limited to, procurement of the latest and
19 most up-to-date medical instruments, tools and apparatus; repair major
20 areas which need to be rehabilitated such as patient rooms and wards,
21 operating rooms, lavatory areas and comfort rooms, and other physical
22 facilities; and repair and repainting of POC buildings and its
23 environment.
24

25 **SEC. 5. POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Council.** - For
26 the purposes of formulating and adopting the POC Modernization Plan,
27 there is hereby created a POC Rehabilitation and Modernization
28 Council composed of seven (7) members which shall be headed by the
29 Secretary of Health as its Ex-Officio Chairman and the POC Medical
30 Center Chief as Co-Chairman. Its members shall be composed of
31 representatives of academic and medical communities in the field of
32 Orthopedic medicine and other stakeholders as may be determined by
33 the Secretary of Health.
34

35 **SEC. 6. POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Fund.** - There is
36 hereby created the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) – Rehabilitation
37 and Modernization fund which shall be used exclusively to fund the
38 modernization plan provided under this Act.
39

40 The initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos
41 (PhP500,000,000) to comprise the said fund shall be included in the

1 General Appropriations Act of the year immediately following the
2 approval of this Act.

3
4 The total amount allocated herein shall be used exclusively for the
5 rehabilitation and/or repair, renovation of POC, the procurement of
6 hospital materials, equipment, furniture and fixtures pursuant to the
7 program and guidelines as determined by the Council.

8
9 **SEC. 7. Rules and Regulations.** - The DOH shall, within ninety
10 (90) days from effectivity of this Act, issue the rules and regulations
11 necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

12
13 **SEC. 8. Annual Report.** - The Council shall submit to the Office
14 of the President and Congress, through the House and Senate
15 Committees on Health, an annual report on the outcome and progress of
16 its activities.

17
18 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision or part of
19 this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions and
20 parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall
21 remain in full force and effect.

22
23 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders,
24 issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent
25 with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

26
27 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
28 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
29 newspapers of general circulation.

30
Approved,