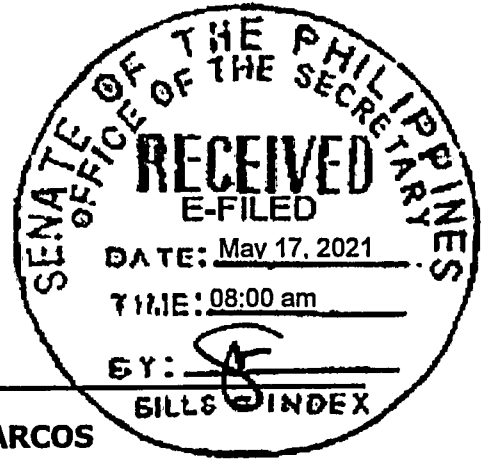


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 2198



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE FARMERS' HOSPITAL IN NUEVA
ECIJA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*"

According to the World Health Organization, with more than a third of the world's labor force employed in the sector, agriculture is the second greatest source of employment worldwide after services. In the Philippines, as of March 2021, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the agriculture sector which accounted for nearly one-fourth (24.6%) is the second dominant employment hub.

A publication of Oregon State University states that farmers and farm workers suffer from increased rates of respiratory diseases, noise-induced hearing loss, skin disorders, certain cancers, chemical toxicity, and heat-related illnesses. In 2008, the American Agricultural Economics Association published that obstacles in obtaining affordable health care have important implications for a farmer's productivity. Moreover, serious illness could already be in terminal stages if not detected early due to lack of access to hospitals and specialists. Unhealthy citizenry will result in low productivity and shrink the economic contribution of the sector.

In 2020, despite the onslaught of the pandemic and calamities, agriculture continue to be a beacon of hope for the country's economy. And to keep this pace, the government must do its part in taking care of farmers and other farm workers by making health services accessible at any time they need it.

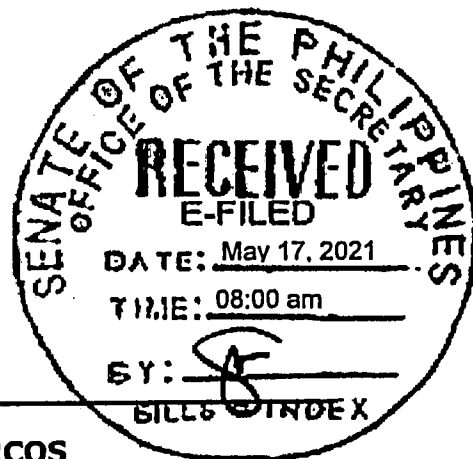
This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Farmers' Hospital in Nueva Ecija, which shall serve as a specialty hospital that will cater specifically to the medical needs of farmers and other agricultural workers and promote more efficient productivity and better economic well-being.

In view of the foregoing, the expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Imee R. Marcos
IMEE R. MARCOS

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE FARMERS' HOSPITAL IN NUEVA ECIIJA, APPROPRIATING 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 Farmers'
2 Hospital Act."

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall uphold the protection and
4 promotion of the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among
5 them. For this purpose, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive
6 approach to health development, and shall give priority for the needs of the under-
7 privileged.

8 The State recognizes the primary role of agriculture in the development of a self-
9 reliant and independent economy. Towards this end, the State shall protect and
10 ensure the well-being of its farmers, farmworkers, and all agricultural workers in
11 recognition of their importance and contribution to nation building.

12 SEC. 3. *Establishment of the Philippine Farmers' Hospital.* – There shall be
13 established a specialty hospital in Nueva Ecija, with at least tertiary level of care, to
14 be known as the Philippine Farmers' Hospital, and herein referred to as the Hospital.
15 The Hospital shall be developed consistent with the health care needs of farmers and
16 their dependents. The Hospital shall be under the full administrative and technical
17 supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

18 SEC. 4. *Objectives.* – To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of
19 quality health care, the Hospital shall have the following main objectives:

- 20 a) Provide comprehensive and total health care services to all farmers and
21 their legal dependents;
22 b) Serve as primary referral hospital for farmers and their dependents
23 needing medical assistance and support;

- 1 c) Set up systems that will effectively monitor condition of patients and to
2 generate relevant health information and data for policy formulation; and
3 d) Participate in the health care provider networks and arrangements relative
4 to the implementation of Republic Act No. 11223, or the "Universal Health
5 Care Act."

6 **SEC. 5. *Medical Assistance.*** – The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
7 (DA) shall ensure that existing health benefits and medical assistance programs are
8 strengthened to include, among others, subsidies on hospitalization and medical
9 procedures for farmers and qualified dependents.

10 **SEC. 6. *Review and Assessment.*** – The DOH and DA shall conduct a mandatory
11 review and assessment every five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act to ensure
12 its proper implementation and assess the performance of the Hospital.

13 A report shall be submitted to the Committee on Health and Committee on
14 Agriculture on both houses of Congress within thirty (30) days from the termination
15 of the period of review and assessment.

16 **SEC. 7. *Tax Exemption.*** – All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and
17 contributions made to the Philippine Farmers' Hospital to be used actually, directly and
18 exclusively by The Hospital shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be
19 considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor, in accordance
20 with the provisions of the National Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

21 The importation of equipment, machinery and spare parts which are used solely
22 and exclusively for the operation of the Philippine Farmers' Hospital and are not
23 available locally shall be exempt from value-added tax and customs duty.

24 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
25 the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of
26 the DOH. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this
27 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

28 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
29 approval of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DA and other relevant
30 stakeholders, shall formulate and issue the implementing rules and regulations (IRR)
31 to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

32 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason or reasons, any portion or
33 provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions
34 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

35 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
36 rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with
37 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 12: *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,