



Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6140

---

**Introduced by Representative Lorenz R. Defensor, Raul C. Tupas  
and Michael B. Gorriceta**

---

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Children's Medical Center for Visayas and Philippine Children's Medical Center for Mindanao as constituent units of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) in Quezon City.

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*" Further, Paragraph 2, Section 3 of Article XV states that "*The State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.*"

Section 11, Article XIII provides that "*The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.*"

Consistent with the above-cited constitutional provisions, this bill aims to establish specialized medical centers and provide a full range of health care services to children in the Visayas and Mindanao.

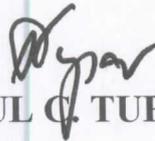
The PCMC, formerly known as the Lungsod ng Kabataan was established under Presidential Decree No. 1631 on August 10, 1979. It was created primarily to benefit the Filipino children, enhance the research in pediatric diseases, training of medical and technical personnel and provide specialized medical services for the prevention and treatment of children's diseases. Presently, PCMC offers a wide array of general and subspecialty services in pediatrics, surgery and allied medicine. It has training programs in various medical fields and produced researches relevant to the day-to-day case of the well and sick child.

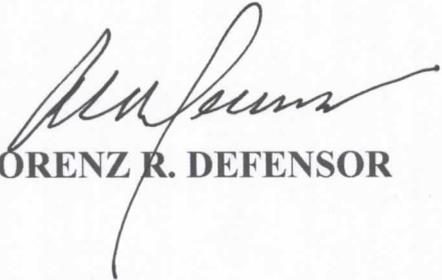
Currently, only residents of Metro Manila and its nearby provinces are able to avail of government-sponsored medical care for infants and children through the PCMC in Quezon City. Its location is not accessible to those living in Visayas and Mindanao.

With the ever increasing population of the Visayas and Mindanao, it is imperative for the government to establish medical centers in the said regions that will cater to the medical needs of children especially from poor families. Iloilo City and Davao City are ideal locations for the children's medical center because of its proximity to other provinces.

The establishment of PCMC-Visayas and PCMC-Mindanao will alleviate the plight of parents and children in these regions of additional costs and burden of travelling to Quezon City in order to avail of the medical services of PCMC. These medical centers will ensure the availability and accessibility of medical services for children in the Visayas and Mindanao. It will also enable the children to avail of specialized health care for the prevention and treatment of pediatric diseases.

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

  
RAUL C. TUPAS

  
LORENZ R. DEFENSOR

  
MICHAEL B. GORRICETA



Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6140

---

Introduced by Representatives Lorenz R. Defensor, Raul C. Tupas  
and Michael B. Gorriceta

---

1 **AN ACT**

2 **ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER**  
3 **FOR VISAYAS AND PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER FOR**  
4 **MINDANAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5  
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*  
7 *Congress assembled:*  
8

9 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect  
10 and promote the right to health of the people, especially the children, including  
11 proper care and nutrition and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to  
12 health development. Towards this end, the State shall ensure the accessibility of  
13 medical services and the availability of specialized health care to children in the  
14 Visayas and Mindanao regions.

15 SEC. 2. *Philippine Children's Medical Center for Visayas and Mindanao.*–

16 There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Health, a

1 Philippine Children's Medical Center in Iloilo City and a Philippine Children's  
2 Medical Center in Davao City to be known as the Philippine Children's Medical  
3 Center for Visayas and Philippine Children's Medical Center for Mindanao,  
4 hereinafter referred to as PCMC – Visayas and PCMC – Mindanao, respectively.  
5 The PCMC-Visayas and PCMC - Mindanao shall be constituent specialty hospitals  
6 of the Philippine Children's Medical Center and shall be administered by its existing  
7 Board of Trustees of the Philippine Children's Medical Center, hereinafter referred to  
8 as the Board.

9 The PCMC - Visayas and PCMC - Mindanao shall have a bed capacity of at  
10 least one hundred fifty (150) each.

11 **SEC. 3. *Medical Director.*** – The PCMC -Visayas and PCMC - Mindanao shall  
12 each be headed by a Medical Director who shall be appointed by the President of the  
13 Philippines upon the recommendation of the Board.

14 The Medical Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

15 (a) Execute the policies, guidelines and programs approved by the Board, and  
16 be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;

17 (b) Submit for the consideration and approval of the Board proposed  
18 measures, policies, guidelines and programs as may be deemed necessary or proper  
19 for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;

1 (c) Direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of the  
2 PCMC -Visayas and PCMC -Mindanao, and may delegate this power and any or  
3 some of his administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the  
4 hospitals;

5 (d) Execute, on behalf of the Board, all contracts and agreements which the  
6 latter may enter into, and to execute, accomplish and deliver any and all documents  
7 relative to such contracts and agreements;

8 (e) Represent the PCMC - Visayas and PCMC - Mindanao, on behalf of the  
9 Board, in all dealings with other offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the  
10 government, and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and  
11 whether government or private;

12 (f) Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal,  
13 and suspension of the officers and employees of the hospitals; and

14 (g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or  
15 reposed by the Board.

16 SEC. 4. ***Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** – The Board shall  
17 determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the PCMC - Visayas  
18 and PCMC - Mindanao subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission  
19 and of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the  
20 Department of Budget and Management. The Board may reorganize the structure,

1 modify the staffing pattern and create or abolish divisions, sections or units in the  
2 PCMC - Visayas and PCMC - Mindanao.

3       SEC. 5. ***Program for Indigents.*** – The Board shall ensure that the PCMC -  
4 Visayas and PCMC – Mindanao shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents. The  
5 number of beds allocated for indigent patients shall not be less than forty percent  
6 (40%) of the total number of hospital beds.

7       SEC. 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Health, in  
8 consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Children’s Medical Center,  
9 shall formulate and promulgate, the rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of  
10 this Act.

11       SEC. 7. ***Appropriations.***–The amount of Ten billion pesos  
12 (P10,000,000,000.00) out of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated is  
13 hereby appropriated for the establishment, initial operation and maintenance of the  
14 PCMC - Visayas and PCMC - Mindanao. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary  
15 for the continued operation and maintenance of the PCMC - Visayas and PCMC -  
16 Mindanao shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17       SEC. 8. ***Repealing Clause.*** –All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules  
18 and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
19 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

1            SEC. 9.    *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
2 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

3            Approved,