

10 AUG 23 10:17

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2436

RECEIVED BY 

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The burgeoning number of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) shows that we need to provide this sector of our population more attention and significance. More so that in the previous years, they have been the victims of exploitations within their respective workplaces in foreign countries. They are there precisely to earn better income and be able to afford their families better economic conditions.

Being in a different country is quite difficult given the fact that access to medical privileges is not equally granted to non-citizens. This is not to mention the fact that our OFWs' income in times of illnesses or diseases only goes directly to medical expenses leaving their families with nothing. Such being the case, the realization of our OFWs' dream of alleviating their present economic conditions are usually hampered by such inevitable circumstances.

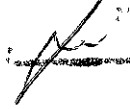
In order to address this issue, this bill among others, aims to:

- To construct, establish, operate and maintain a medical center for Overseas Filipino Workers and their Families;
- To promote, encourage, and engage in scientific research on the prevention and the care and/or treatment of common and recurring cases of sickness among OFW patients and related activities, including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars and conferences;
- To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, treatment, and control of such diseases; to arouse, enhance and develop public interest or awareness;
- To extend medical services to the OFWs and their families, to help prevent, relieve or alleviate their innumerable medical afflictions and maladies.

The immediate passage of this bill is fervently called for.


MANNY VILLAR

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 2436

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

AN ACT
CREATING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFW) MEDICAL CENTER
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Creation of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Medical Center;*
2 *Board of Trustees* – There is hereby created a trust for the benefit primarily of
3 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), under the name and style of Overseas Filipino
4 Workers Medical Center, herein after referred to as OFW Medical Center.

5
6 The OFW Medical Center shall be administered by a Board of Trustees,
7 composed of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines.
8 The Director of the Center shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

9
10 The six (6) appointive members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without
11 compensation for a period of four (4) years and until their successors shall have been
12 appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by appointment by the
13 President of the Philippines, and the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term. The
14 Board of Trustees of the OFW Medical Center shall elect a Chairman from among
15 themselves, who shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.

16
17 Four (4) Members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact
18 business and any decision of such four (4) members on any matter duly presented to
19 the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of OFW Medical Center.

20
21 SECTION 2. *Government's Contribution* – The Government shall contribute the
22 necessary land, building equipment and facilities to the OFW Medical Center, and shall
23 pay such obligations for real, personal and mixed properties arising from such
24 undertaking under a deferred payment arrangement within five (5) years, at a preferred
25 rate of interest.

26
27 SECTION 3. *Property of the Center* – The Property of the OFW Medical Center
28 shall consist of the real, personal, mixed and other type of property, now owned or
29 reserved for, or may hereafter given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to, the
30 OFW Medical Center by the Philippine Government, its branches and instrumentalities,

1 any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien
2 or domestic, in order to carry out its purposes and objective as set forth herein.

3
4 SECTION 4. *Purposes and Objectives* - The purposes and objectives of the
5 OFW Medical Center are:

- 6
7 1. To construct, establish, operate and maintain a medical center for Overseas
8 Filipino Workers and their Families;
- 9
10 2. To promote, encourage, and engage in scientific research on the prevention
11 and the care and/or treatment of common and recurring cases of sickness
12 among OFW patients and related activities, including sponsorship and
13 conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars and conferences;
- 14
15 3. To stimulate and/or underwrite scientific researches on the biological,
16 demographic, social, economic, eugenic, physiological aspects of common
17 or rare OFW illness; and gather, compile and publish the findings of such
18 researches for public dissemination;
- 19
20 4. To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and
21 information on the prevention, treatment, and control of such diseases; to
22 arouse, enhance and develop public interest or awareness;
- 23
24 5. To encourage and/or undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical
25 technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific
26 conduct and implementation of medical services and other related activities;
- 27
28 6. To encourage the formation of other organizations on the national, provincial,
29 city, municipal or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and
30 activities for the purpose of achieving a more effective programmatic
31 approach on the common problems relative to the objective herein
32 enumerated; and
- 33
34 7. To extend medical services to the OFWs and their families, to help prevent,
35 relieve or alleviate their innumerable medical afflictions and maladies.

36
37 SECTION 5. *Powers* – For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above
38 mentioned purposes and objective, the OFW Medical Center, as body corporate, acting
39 through its Board of Trustees, shall have all the powers pertaining to a juridical person,
40 and is therefore authorized, among other things:

- 41
42 1. To acquire and hold in any matter property of whatever nature or description,
43 and dispose of such property under any mode of encumbrance or
44 conveyance;
- 45
46 2. To contract and be contracted with;
- 47
48 3. To mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of its
49 properties;
- 50
51 4. To solicit and receive donations, endowments and funds in the form of
52 contributions, whether cash or in kind, from both the public and the private
53 sectors;
- 54
55 5. To open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions and to
56 disburse such funds or invest the same as the Board may direct to
57 accomplish or advance the purposes or interest of the OFW Medical Center;
- 58

- 1 6. To invite foreign medical specialists and similar experts in the various medical
2 field to train the personnel or trainees or residents of the OFW Medical
3 Center;
- 4
- 5 7. To send the personnel of the OFW Medical Center to research institutes,
6 medical institutes or universities for advance training or observation and to
7 attend international or regional conventions, conferences, congresses, and
8 seminars as the Board may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes and
9 objectives of the OFW Medical Center;
- 10
- 11 8. To adopt a set of by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with law and
12 the provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the affairs
13 of the OFW Medical Center; and
- 14
- 15 9. To do all such other acts and things as may be necessary or incidental for the
16 accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the OFW Medical Center.

17
18 SECTION 6. *Tax Exemptions, etc.* – All donations, contributions or endowments
19 which may be made by entities or persons to the OFW Medical Center shall be exempt
20 from income and gift taxes.

21
22 The OFW Medical Centers shall be exempt from the payment of all taxes,
23 charges and fees imposed by the government or any political subdivision or
24 instrumentality thereof for a period of ten (10) years.

25
26 All income earned by foreign doctors who shall use the facilities of the Center
27 shall be tax exempt for a period of ten (10) years from the date of issuance thereof.

28
29 SECTION 7. *Assistance from Government Offices, etc.* – The OFW Medical
30 Center may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the
31 Government, including government owned or controlled corporations, for such
32 assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

33
34 SECTION 8. *Government Contribution* – The amount of Five Hundred Million
35 Pesos (P500,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as contribution of the National
36 Government for the initial operations and maintenance of the OFW Medical Center ,
37 which shall be appropriated and included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

38
39 SECTION 9. *Auditing* – The books and accounts of the OFW Medical Center
40 shall be subject to periodic auditing by the Chairman of the Commission on Audit or his
41 duly authorized representative.

42
43 SECTION 10. *Annual Report* - The OFW Medical Center shall render to the
44 President of the Philippines and to the Secretary of the Department of Health an annual
45 report of its activities and recommendations.

46
47 SECTION 11. *Effect of Dissolution of the Center* – If for any reason, the OFW
48 Medical Center is dissolved, its property remaining at the time of such dissolution shall
49 revert back to the Philippine Government for disposition in accordance with law.

50
51 SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and
52 regulations, issuances or parts thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to
53 be in full force and effect.

54
55 SECTION 13. *Separability Clause* – If any part of this Act is held
56 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts hereof which are not affected thereby shall
57 continue to be in full force and effect.

1 SECTION 14. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
2 following its publication in the least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

3

4 Approved,