

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 49

Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution expressly declares that the State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to our veterans. With majority of them being elderly, sick, underprivileged, disabled, and poor, the Government should focus on programs directed to improving their health conditions.

The Veterans Memorial Medical Center was constructed by virtue of United States (US) Public Law 865 of July 1, 1948, as gift of the US to the Filipino people. It was further mandated to be the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of veterans and their dependents, pursuant to the aforementioned Constitutional provision.

Nevertheless, such herculean undertaking cannot be accomplished by a single hospital, which serves the needs of tens of thousands of Filipino veterans all over the country. It is therefore imperative that we honor and pay tribute to the sacrifices of our veterans and their dependents by affording them adequate, accessible and quality medical treatment. Hence, the establishment of additional Veterans Memorial Medical Centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao is imperative.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel DG. Cabochan III', written over the printed name.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTERS IN LUZON,
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The establishment of one (1) Veterans Memorial Medical Centers each
2 for Luzon (outside Metro Manila), Visayas and Mindanao, with the minimum capacity of
3 twenty-five (25) hospital beds each under the supervision of the Philippine Veterans Affairs
4 Office (PVAO) is hereby mandated.
5

6 **SEC. 2.** The Secretary of National Defense and/or his duly authorized representative,
7 in consultation and coordination with the concerned officials of the Department of Interior
8 and Local Government, shall formulate and promulgate the implementing guidelines, rules
9 and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.
10

11 **SEC. 3.** The Secretary of Defense shall immediately include in the Department's
12 programs the operationalization of the new Veterans Memorial Medical Centers in Luzon
13 (outside Metro Manila), Visayas, and Mindanao, the funding of which shall be included in
14 the Annual General Appropriations Act.
15

16 **SEC. 4.** For the purposes of this Act, the term "operationalization" shall include the
17 acquisition of the land on which the hospitals will be established, the construction of the
18 building and other complementary infrastructures, facilities and hospital equipment, as well
19 as the costs for maintenance and personal services for the said facilities.
20

21 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the
22 Official Gazette at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,