


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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 FEB 16 AIO :46

SENATE

RECEIVED BY. 

Senate Bill No. 2653

By Senator Teofisto "TG" L. Guingona III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE PHILIPPINE
PLAN OF ACTION TO ELIMINATE TUBERCULOSIS AS A PUBLIC
HEALTH PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

"Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the world's deadliest communicable diseases. In 2013, an estimated 9.0 million people developed TB and 1.5 million died from the disease, 360 000 of whom were HIV-positive. TB is slowly declining each year and it is estimated that 37 million lives were saved between 2000 and 2013 through effective diagnosis and treatment. However, given that most deaths from TB are preventable, the death toll from the disease is still unacceptably high and efforts to combat it must be accelerated if 2015 global targets, set within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), are to be met "(Global Tuberculosis Report 2014, WHO)

Even with the high success rate of treatment of new TB cases, the Philippines ranked second in Asia when it came to the prevalence of TB per 100,000 population in 2012.

In response to the emerging threats brought about by the TB disease, this bill was crafted to provide for the establishment of a Philippine Plan of Action to Eliminate Tuberculosis which shall consist, among others, of the country's targets and strategies in addressing the disease; prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support, and other components of the country's response; and development and application of appropriate technologies to diagnose and treat the disease among many other important factors

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


TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III

Senator

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Senate Bill No. 2653

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE PHILIPPINE PLAN OF
ACTION TO ELIMINATE TUBERCULOSIS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH
PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SEC. 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Comprehensive Tuberculosis
2 Elimination Plan Act.”

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State is mandated to adopt an integrated and
4 comprehensive approach to health development. Towards this end, the State shall support and
5 expand efforts to eliminate tuberculosis as a public health problem by increasing investments
6 for its prevention, treatment and control, and adopting a multisectoral approach in responding
7 to the disease.

8 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms* – As used in this Act:

9 (a) *Comprehensive Philippine Plan of Action to Eliminate Tuberculosis* refers to the
10 program of the national government for the elimination of tuberculosis in the country; and

11 (b) *Tuberculosis* or *TB* refers to an infectious but curable disease caused by bacteria
12 called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It is transmitted from a TB patient to another through
13 coughing, sneezing and spitting and while the bacterium usually affects the lungs, it may also
14 affect the bone and other organs like the kidney and the liver.

15 SEC. 4. *Comprehensive Philippine Plan of Action to Eliminate Tuberculosis.* – The
16 Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) shall establish a Comprehensive Philippine Plan

1 of Action to Eliminate Tuberculosis in consultation with appropriate public and private
2 entities. The Philippine Plan of Action shall consist of the following:

3 (a) The country's targets and strategies in addressing the disease,

4 (b) The prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support, and other components of the
5 country's response;

6 (c) The development and application of appropriate technologies to diagnose and treat
7 the disease;

8 (d) The strengthening of linkages with local and international organizations for possible
9 partnership in education, advocacy, research and funding assistance;

10 (e) The establishment of a review and monitoring system to gather data and monitor the
11 progress made in the elimination of tuberculosis; and

12 (f) The immediate mobilization of anti-TB services during and after natural and man-
13 made disasters through collaborative efforts of national and local governments and other
14 entities.

15 *SEC. 5. Strengthening of the National and Regional Coordinating Committees.* – The
16 National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) of
17 the DOH shall serve as the National TB Control Program's (NTP's) arm in strengthening and
18 supporting nationwide capacity for program operations and bridging collaborative efforts
19 between the public and private sector.

20 The Secretary of Health shall continue to improve the capability of the existing NCC and
21 RCC in ensuring efficiency in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Philippine
22 Plan of Action and in the coordination of efforts of various sectors.

23 *SEC. 6. Research, Demonstration Projects, Education and Training.* – The
24 Secretary of Health shall, directly or through grants to public or nonprofit private entities,
25 perform the following activities:

26 (a) Conduct basic and clinical research based on the health agenda to be developed by
27 partners in the academe, health professional groups and other local health partners with
28 possible support from foreign organizations;

29 (b) Develop demonstration projects to generate evidence for responsive policies and to
30 develop regional capabilities for the prevention, detection, control, and elimination of
31 tuberculosis;

32 (c) Conduct nationwide public information campaign and education programs;

1 (d) Undertake education, training and clinical skills improvement activities for health
2 care providers,

3 (e) Provide support for model centers to sustain their initiatives under subparagraphs
4 (b), (c) and (d); and

5 (f) Collaborate with local and foreign organizations for partnership in various activities
6 and in providing technical and funding support.

7 *SEC. 7. Strengthening of the Regional Centers for Health Development in the*
8 *Provision of Health Services to Eliminate TB.* – The Secretary of Health shall strengthen the
9 Regional Centers for Health Development in the provision of health services to eliminate TB
10 by undertaking the following activities:

11 (a) Provide free laboratory services through the DOH retained hospitals;

12 (b) Provide reliable supply of drugs to patients for free by ensuring that local health
13 centers, through coordination with local government units (LGUs) concerned, have sufficient
14 supply of medicines for the communities they serve;

15 (c) Undertake public information and educational programs to train the public on basic
16 ways and means to prevent the spread of tuberculosis;

17 (d) Train and enhance the capability of health providers in both public and private
18 hospitals;

19 (e) Ensure the proper monitoring of tuberculosis cases in the country; and

20 (f) Ensure that monitoring services are extended as far as practicable, at the lowest local
21 level health unit.

22 *SEC. 8. Education Programs.* – The Secretary of Health, in coordination with the
23 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall encourage the faculty of schools of medicine,
24 nursing or medical technology and allied health institutions, to intensify information and
25 education programs, including the development of curricula, to significantly increase the
26 opportunities for students and for practicing providers to learn the principles and practices of
27 preventing, detecting, managing, and controlling tuberculosis

28 *SEC. 9. Inclusion in Basic Education.* – The Secretary of Health, in coordination with
29 the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepED), shall work for the inclusion of
30 modules on the principles and practices of preventing, detecting, managing and controlling
31 tuberculosis in the health curriculum of every public and private elementary and high school

32 *SEC. 10. Media Campaign.* – The Secretary of Health, in coordination with the
33 Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall encourage local media outlets to launch a media

1 campaign on tuberculosis control, treatment and management, using all forms of multimedia
2 and other electronic means of communication

3 The media campaign shall include materials that would discourage the general public
4 from spitting in public places and exhibiting unhygienic behavior that tend to undermine the
5 overall effort of preventing the spread of the disease.

6 SEC. 11. *Regulation on Sale and Use of TB Drugs* – The Food and Drug
7 Administration (FDA) shall strengthen its implementation of the “No prescription, No
8 anti-TB drugs” to regulate the sale and use of anti-TB drugs in the market. It shall also ensure
9 the quality of TB drugs distributed in the market.

10 SEC. 12. *Notification on TB Cases*. – All public and private health centers, hospitals
11 and facilities shall observe the national protocol on TB management and shall notify the DOH
12 of all TB cases as prescribed under the Manual of Procedures of the National TB Program and
13 the Philippine Plan of Action on Tuberculosis Control.

14 SEC. 13. *PhilHealth TB Package*. – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation,
15 otherwise known as the PhilHealth, shall, as far as practicable, expand its benefit package for
16 TB patients to include new, relapse and return-after-default cases, and extension of
17 treatment.

18 The PhilHealth shall enhance its present outpatient Directly Observed Treatment Short
19 Course (DOTS) package to make it more responsive to patients’ needs. It shall likewise
20 increase the number of accredited DOTS facilities to widen target beneficiaries who may avail
21 of reimbursements.

22 SEC. 14. *Report*. – The Secretary of Health shall submit an annual report to the
23 Committees on Health of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the activities carried
24 out to comply with the provisions of this Act.

25 SEC. 15. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this
26 Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH, DepED, CHED and the PIA
27 under the General Appropriations Act.

28 SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – The DOH, in consultation with the
29 DepED, CHED, PIA, LGUs, nongovernment organizations and other concerned entities, shall
30 issue the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days
31 from its effectivity.

1 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 declared unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to
3 be in full force and effect.

4 SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
5 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with
6 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

7 SEC. 19. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
8 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9

10 Approved,