

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10532, May 07, 2013]

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine National Health Research System Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people, instill health consciousness among them and improve the quality of life of every Filipino through health research and development initiatives.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) *Health* shall refer to a state of optimal physical, mental and social well-being and the ability to function at the individual level.

(b) *Health Research Stakeholders* shall refer to the national and the local public and private agencies/organizations, policymakers, the academe, medical and health societies, people’s organizations and others who are concerned with and affected by health and development.

(c) *National Unified Health Research Agenda* shall refer to a set of research priorities determined by the country’s stakeholders which addresses the health needs of the population *vis-a-vis* the health sector’s goal for universal health care. This agenda is a platform to advocate for local, national and international support.

(d) *Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)* shall refer to one of the sectoral planning councils of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) which provides central direction, leadership and coordination in health science and technology (S&T).

(e) *Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB)* shall refer to the national policymaking body on health research ethics, created under DOST Special Order No. 091, which is mandated to ensure that all phases of health research shall adhere to the universal ethical principles that value the protection and promotion of the dignity of health research participants.

(f) *Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS)* shall refer to a framework anchored on the principles of Essential National Health Research on inclusiveness, participation, quality, equity, efficiency and effectiveness, which connect to, and

converge with, the wider health, economic, political, educational and S&T systems of the country.

(g) *Regional Health Research Systems* shall refer to the regional health research consortia or communities in all the regions of the country which mirror the PNHRS framework at the regional level.

(h) *Research* shall refer to the development of knowledge with the aim of understanding health challenges and mounting an improved response to them. This covers the full spectrum of research in five (5) generic areas of activity: (1) measuring the problem; (2) understanding its cause(s); (3) elaborating solutions; (4) translating the solutions or evidence into policy, practice and products; and (5) evaluating the effectiveness of solutions.

ARTICLE II THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM

SEC. 4. *Institutionalization of the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS)*. – The PNHRS, initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding between the DOST and the Department of Health (DOH) in 2003 and 2007, is hereby institutionalized within the mandate of the PCHRD, the national coordinating body for health research.

SEC. 5. *Objectives of the PNHRS*. – The PNHRS aims to improve the health status, productivity and “the quality of life of Filipinos by:

- (a) Ensuring that health research is linked to the health system needs;
- (b) Ensuring that investments in health research yield the most benefit;
- (c) Promoting good governance among health research organizations through efficient, effective, transparent and ethical health research management system;
- (d) Engaging in national and international partnerships and networks for health research development; and
- (e) Ensuring sustainability of resources for health research.

SEC. 6. *Composition of the PNHRS*. – The PNHRS shall be composed of the Governing Council (GC), the Steering Committee, the Technical Working Committees (TWC) and the Secretariat, as described in Section 9 hereof. The whole health research community shall be deemed an indispensable partner and contributor in the effort to strengthen the PNHRS. The interrelationships among these various components shall be described in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act.

SEC. 7. *The PNHRS Governing Council*. – The PCHRD Governing Council, created under Executive Order (EO) No. 784 of 1982 and EO No. 128 of 1987, shall be the Governing Council of the PNHRS. The PNHRS Governing Council shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Secretary of the DOST, as Chair;
- (b) The Secretary of the DOH, as Co-Chair;

- (c) The Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- (d) The Chancellor of the University of the Philippines, Manila (UPM);
- (e) The National Nutrition Council Executive Director;
- (f) The PCHRD Executive Director; and
- (g) Five (5) representatives from the private sector.

SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions of the PNHRG Governing Council.* – The PNHRG Governing Council shall:

- (a) Set policies and directions for the PNHRG;
- (b) Periodically review and approve the long-term plans and programs of the PNHRG;
- (c) Evaluate and approve the National Unified Health Research Agenda, and identify areas that will serve as the foci of the National Health Research Agenda;
- (d) Review, approve or disapprove research programs; and
- (e) Create committees as the need arises to facilitate and ensure the achievement of its objectives.

SEC. 9. *The PNHRG Secretariat.* – The PCHRD Secretariat, headed by an Executive Director, shall serve as the PNHRG Secretariat. The Executive Director shall be responsible for, among others, the smooth implementation of programs and projects and shall, in pursuit thereof, exercise an oversight function over the PNHRG.

The Secretariat shall provide technical and administrative support in the following areas:

- (a) Research and Development Management;
- (b) Institution Development;
- (c) Research Information, Communication and Utilization; and
- (d) Finance and Administration.

SEC. 10. *Creation and Functions of the Steering Committee.* – (a) The Governing Council (GC) shall create a Steering Committee, to be headed by the PCHRD Executive Director. It shall be composed of the following:

- (1) The Executive Director, DOST-PCHRD;
- (2) The Director, Department of Health-Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau (DOH-HPDPB);
- (3) The Director, Commission on Higher Education, Office of Policy, Planning, Research and Information (CHED-OPPRI);
- (4) The Executive Director, University of the Philippines, Manila-National Institutes of Health (UPM-NIH);