



Press Release
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CHED supports PBBM's prioritization of healthcare system, building of specialty hospitals in regions

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) fully supports President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s initiative to strengthen the healthcare system capacity, and to build more specialty hospitals in other parts of the country, which he mentioned during his first state of the nation address (SONA).

One of the cornerstones of a strong healthcare system is the provision of competent and efficient medical professionals. We will exert all efforts to improve the welfare of our doctors, nurses, and other medical frontliners," Marcos said.

"CHED is facilitating the production of the critical manpower for the President's plan to build specialty hospitals all over the country. Through the Doktor Para sa Bayan Law, we have authorized the opening of "new" medical programs in seven (7) universities and recently lifted the 11 year old moratorium on the offering of new nursing programs in HEIs. These new medical and nursing programs will produce the additional doctors and nurses that will man these new hospitals four to five years from now," said CHED Chairman Popoy De Vera.

There are now fifteen (15) public universities with free medical education under the Doktor para sa Bayan Law:

Region	Name of SUC
I	1. Mariano Marcos State University
I	2. University of Northern Philippines
II	3. Cagayan State University
IV-A	4. Batangas State University
IV-A	5. Cavite State University
V	6. Bicol University
VI	7. West Visayas State University
VII	8. Cebu Normal University-Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center
VIII	9. University of the Philippines Manila-School of Health Sciences
IX	10. Western Mindanao State University
BARMM	11. Mindanao State University-Marawi
NCR	12. University of the Philippines-Manila (College of Medicine)
XI	13. University of Southeastern Philippines

XII	14. Mindanao State University-General Santos
XII	15. University of Southern Mindanao

"We have corrected the historical injustice in Mindanao, where for a very long time, there was only one medical school - MSU Marawi. Now, students can study for free in the medical schools of Western Mindanao State University, MSU-General Santos, MSU-Marawi, USEP and USM," De Vera said.

CHED has also entered into agreements with twelve (12) private HEIs so that their students who want to study for free, and serve the country, can become scholars.

	REGION	SUCs	Private HEIs
Partner Higher Education Institutions SUCs - 14  Private - 12	I	Mariano Marcos State University, University of Northern Philippines	
	II	Cagayan State University	St. Paul University Philippines Tuguegarao
	III		Angeles University Foundation
	IV	Batangas State University Cavite State University	Adventist University of the Philippines, De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute
	V	Bicol University	
	VI	West Visayas State University	Central Philippine University University of St. La Salle
	VII	Cebu Normal University-Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center	Cebu Institute of Medicine
	VIII	University of the Philippines School of Health Sciences	
	IX	Western Mindanao State University	
	X	Mindanao State University – Iligan	The Xavier University Dr Jose P Rizal School of Medicine
	XI	University of Southeastern Philippines	Davao Medical School Foundation, Inc., Brokenshire College, Inc.
	XII	Mindanao State University – General Santos	
	NCR	University of the Philippines Manila	Ateneo De Manila University School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH), Metropolitan Medical Center

"Beyond the pandemic's issues, the need for a stronger health care system is self-evident. We must bring medical services to the people and not wait for them to come to our hospitals and healthcare centers," Marcos said.

The CHED Commission En Banc (CEB) on July 12, 2022 officially lifted the moratorium on the offering of new nursing programs using a much-needed quality-guided approach.

The decision to lift the moratorium is a response to the current need for more nursing professionals to serve the country's health care delivery system.

"CHED is ready to evaluate the applications for new nursing programs so we can start producing the critical health manpower needed to realize the vision of the President," De Vera said.



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Chairman
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