

## Bulacan leads way with Philippines' first public-funded MRI facility

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In a groundbreaking move for local healthcare, the Province of Bulacan has inaugurated the country's first locally funded Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility, marking a milestone in accessible and modern diagnostics for Filipinos.

Situated at the Bulacan Medical Center, the new open MRI system—developed and powered by Time Medical Philippines, Inc, a US-FDA-registered and CE-marked global innovator in advanced imaging technology, a step-down subsidiary of Fischer Medical Ventures Limited—represents a pivotal step toward universal and equitable healthcare across the country.

While most MRI facilities in the Philippines remain privately owned—with only around 160 units nationwide as of 2022, many already obsolete—Bulacan's initiative stands out as the first-ever local government unit (LGU)-funded open MRI system.

This project exemplifies how local governments can lead the way in bridging healthcare gaps, complementing the Department of Health's national vision for universal healthcare. Governor Fernando's administration spearheaded the initiative to give every Bulakenyo access to essential diagnostic services without the financial strain of traveling to private hospitals or major urban centers.

In addition, the MRI's built-in Teleradiology feature—a first of its kind in the country—allows radiologists to interpret scan results remotely and in real time, ensuring faster turnaround and expanding access to medical expertise even in remote areas.