

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1833

Introduced by **Rep. Rodolfo "Ompong" G. Plaza**

Explanatory Note

The Philippine Normal School was formally founded on September 1, 1901 by virtue of Republic Act No. 74 of the Philippine Commission, as the first institution of higher learning organized after the American occupation of the Philippines. It was converted into the Philippine Normal College with the enactment of RA 416 on June 18, 1949. It became the Philippine Normal University (PNU) through the passage of RA 7168 on January 11, 1992.

Since its inception in 1901, the PNU has remained the only university in the Philippines offering no other program but the teacher education program. And from only 5,158 public school teachers, of whom 763 are Americans, one hundred years ago, there are now around 420 thousand public school teachers in the country. No other school in the country can approximate the way PNU has instituted reforms and promoted teacher education. Proof is the long list of significant publications, research work by the PNU faculty, and national and international distinctions conferred on its faculty and alumni.

Recent developments in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) have impacted greatly on the acquisition of information in the classroom. Today, there is the information highway as a more accessible and very valuable tool to be utilized for the enhancement of existing training programs in public school systems. In the new world order, passing up opportunities for growth via the modern, widely-used technology, would be tantamount to ignoring a veritable resource for development.

However, a 1999 study on teachers' employment status, welfare and working conditions yielded several concerns, among which is the failure to attend training and continuing studies on a regular basis. More alarming are the findings that of the 405,973 public school teachers surveyed, 62.5% graduated over ten (10) years ago, only 13.96 % have access to a computer, only 1.80% have access to the Internet and only about 5.38 % and 2.71 % majored in Math and Science, respectively.

This bill seeks to establish a national system of teacher training and development that will provide all teachers opportunities for in-service training programs in:1) using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to improve the teaching and learning processes; 2) continuing professional education and development by strengthening teacher competencies in various fields of specialization; 3) introducing innovative strategies and modalities of teaching and learning; 4) benchmarking and establishing institutional linkages and networking; and 5) other advocacy and promoting strategies.

The bill also seeks to create a national educational policy research program to provide the necessary support mechanism for the implementation of the national teacher training and development system.

Passage of this bill shall significantly transform school teachers all over the country into better learning facilitators because of their access to and utilization of information and communication technology to enhance pupil learning outcomes. Overall, this bill, if enacted into law, shall greatly enhance equity in and promote the quality of basic education in the country.

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

RODOLFO "OMPONG" G. PLAZA
Lone District of Agusan del Sur

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AN ACT
ELEVATING THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY TO BECOME THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR TEACHER EDUCATION, ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF NATIONAL TEACHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Normal University (PNU) Modernization Act of 2001."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give priority to the continuing professional training and development of all Filipino teachers and utilize the fullest potentials of the country's teaching force to increase access to, promote equity in and improve the quality of basic education. The State shall likewise give priority to educational research and development, to innovations and alternative systems and their utilization and application to teacher training and development.

SECTION 3. *National University for Teacher Education.* – The PNU, with branches in the Municipality of Prosperidad in the Province of Agusan del Sur, Municipality of Alicia in the Province of Isabela, Cadiz City in the Province of Negros

Occidental, and an extension in the Municipality of Lopez in the Province of Quezon, is hereby elevated to become the country's national university for teacher education.

The honor and distinction of a national university for teacher education is conferred on the PNU in recognition of its progressive leadership in the field of teacher education. Since its inception of September 1, 1901, the university remains the only university in the country offering no other program but the teacher education program.

The PNU has consistently proven the quality of excellence of its teacher education programs by the significant publications and research work of the faculty; the national and international distinctions and honor conferred on its faculty and alumni; and its outstanding leadership in promoting teacher education reforms in the country.

SECTION 4. *National Teacher Training and Development.* – There is hereby established a system of National Teacher Training and Development to provide school heads and school teachers in the country opportunities for continuing professional education and development as well as ensure the smooth induction and integration of graduates to the teaching service.

For this purpose, a National Teacher Training and Development (NTTD) Program is hereby established in the Philippine Normal University to offer in-service training and development for teachers, school heads and administrators. The NTTD program shall be formulated, organized and implemented in consultation with the Department of Education (DEPED), the Teacher Education Council (TEC), the Commission on Higher Education, and other appropriate agencies and shall include among others the following areas of training and development:

a) Information and communication technologies as tools to improve the teaching and learning and decision-making processes;

b) Competencies in various fields of specialization such as educational leadership in administration, management and supervision and educational evaluation and assessment;

c) Innovative strategies and alternative modalities of teaching and learning such as open and flexible learning and distance education.

The following objectives shall guide the implementation of the NTTD program:

a.) To identify the priority areas for teacher training and development taking into account the new directions and challenges for teacher education especially in the Asia-Pacific region;

b) To determine desired competencies to be acquired, develop the training and development curriculum preferably modularized and ladderized, prepare the course materials and establish the measurement and evaluation criteria;

c.) To conduct the teacher training and development courses utilizing suitable approaches and wide-ranging technologies including information and communication technology for open and flexible learning and distance education;

d.) To serve as a learning resource center providing current, up-to-date and significant information on policies and practices on teacher education and teacher training and development programs of countries across the region and the world; and,

e.) To provide technical assistance, training and extension services to institutions that desire to participate in the implementation of the university's national teacher training and development program.

SECTION 5. *Educational Policy Research and Development.* – There shall be established a program for Educational Policy Research and Development (EPRD) which shall have the following objectives:

a) To establish and maintain a database of educational policies and significant issues of the country's education system as well as the educational systems of other countries especially in the Asia-Pacific region;

b) To create and test different models of teacher education, address key factors in successful teacher education programs and determine which model would best achieve the country's educational goals;

c) To promote among the country's teacher education institutions a culture of research and encourage the active involvement and participation of their faculty in research work and development studies;

d) To define, promote and implement a research agenda that will support the implementation of the university's national teacher training and development program;

e) To collaborate with national, regional and international organizations especially those that have the greatest influence on implementing new approaches to teacher education, training and development; and

f) To provide assistance and advice to national policy-makers and decision-makers in planning, implementing and evaluating reforms in teacher education including the licensing of professional teachers.

SECTION 6. *Modernization Plan* – For the purpose of upgrading and maintaining a high degree of academic excellence in providing teacher education, in research and extension services, in advance studies and in other relevant fields, a modernization plan for the PNU shall be prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The university modernization plan shall enhance curricular programs to make them relevant and responsive to the needs of society and address the educational needs of communities. The modernization plan shall include a program for staff development as well as for the upgrading of services, facilities and equipment in the University.

SECTION 7. *Initial and Continuing Appropriation.* – For the initial implementation of this Act, the amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated. Said amount shall be equally funded from the net income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine National Oil Corporation (PNOC).

For the succeeding six (6) years, the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) which shall be equally funded by the PCSO and the PNOC, shall be provided to the PNU.

Thereafter, the amount necessary to sustain the program shall be included in the annual appropriations of the PNU.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive issuance, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* –The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable, and in the event one or more of such provisions are held unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.