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

Twelfth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2196

Introduced by Honorable Jose G. Solis

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to integrate the Bicol University Gubat Extension Program situated in the Municipality of Gubat, Province of Sorsogon as a permanent component of the Bicol University as well as provide an allocation in the annual national budget of the Bicol University, Legaspi City, Province of Albay, for the continuous operation of the above-mentioned program.

The Bicol University Gubat Extension Program (BUGEP) was established through Resolution No. 29, Series of 1996 of the Bicol University (BU) Board of Regents and Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 42, Series of 1997 to provide quality education to poor but deserving students in the Municipality of Gubat and its surrounding areas.

The establishment of the Bicol University Gubat Extension Campus enlivened the hope of the youth of the Province of Sorsogon to pursue their tertiary education without the need to travel to the main campus of Bicol University located in Legaspi City which is fifty-two (52) kilometers or a two (2) hour commute from Gubat, Sorsogon. Sadly, on August 11, 1999 the Bicol University Administrative Council passed a resolution calling for the gradual phase-out of the campus to commence the first semester of school year 2000-2001.

It is unfortunate that the Bicol University Administrative Council decided to gradually phase-out the Bicol University Gubat Extension Program. However, the timely intervention of this representation diffused

the tension pervading among the students of the Bicol University Gubat Extension Program when told of the plan to phase out the school. As a result, in the year 2003, Congress appropriated Three Million pesos (P3.0M) for BUGEP's continued operation and for the year 2004, P6.3 Million was appropriated. However, since we are operating under a re-enacted budget, only P2.73 Million can be expended for the continuance of their operation.

For the duration of its existence of four and a half (4 1/2) years, it has consistently given quality education to its students as evidenced by the seventy percent (70%) passing rate in the just concluded Licensure Examination for Teachers given last August 2001. The integration of the Bicol University Gubat Extension Program as a permanent campus of Bicol University will provide quality, affordable and accessible higher education to the studentry of the Municipality of Gubat in particular and the Province of Sorsogon in general. It would also give life to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's program *of "Trabaho. Tahanan. Edukasyon. Pagkain sa bawat mesa"* which she emphasized during her first State of the Nation Address.

In view of the foregoing reasons, approval of this bill is strongly recommended.

JOSE G. SOLIS

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2196

Introduced by Honorable Jose G. Solis

AN ACT
INTEGRATING THE BICOL UNIVERSITY GUBAT EXTENSION PROGRAM SITUTATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON INTO A REGULAR COMPONENT OF THE BICOL UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN LEGASPI CITY, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. The Bicol University Gubat Extension Program, situated in the Municipality of Gubat, Province of Sorsogon, is hereby integrated as a regular component of the Bicol University located in Legaspi City, Province of Albay.

SECTION 2. The Board of Regents of the Bicol University is hereby authorized to carry out the integration of the Bicol University Gubat Extension Program into the Bicol University's system not later than the opening of the school year next following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 3. The Bicol University Board of Regents shall have full authority to determine the organizational structure, academic, research and extension programs, the qualifications and number of academic personnel, enrollment, and such other matters related to the administration and operation of Bicol University's Gubat Extension Campus.

SECTION 4. The Board of Regents of the Bicol University shall submit a report to the President of the Philippines and to the Congress on the actions it has taken pursuant hereto within three (3) months after the integration of the Gubat Extension Program into the Bicol University system.

SECTION 5. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as maybe necessary for the operations and maintenance of the Bicol University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,