

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3604**



Introduced by **REP. BENASING O. MACARAMBON, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Balabagan Trade School (BTS) is located at the center of the Municipality of Balabagan, Lanao del Sur, some 80 kilometers south of Marawi City. Established by an Act of Congress in 1967, its original 60,000 square meter-campus was donated by Doña Maria Clara Lobregat.

According to the school's records, the BTS was fully developed even before 1972. An unfortunate victim of the armed conflict in Mindanao which followed the declaration of Martial Law, the school's existing campus was razed to the ground. As a result, classes and the general operations of BTS were indefinitely closed down.

A couple of years later, the BTS reopened its doors to students on a new 80,000 square meter-property donated by Mr. Ismael Cali Caris.

Operating on a shoestring budget today, the BTS has been transferred under the administrative supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). It valiantly operates on a negligible annual budget from government that covers only Personal Services (PS) and Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE). The school's meager facilities have been ravaged by time, but nothing can be done, given the inadequacy of government's support.

Despite these challenges, however, the BTS remains a center of excellent learning for those living outside Marawi's more urbane and academically advanced environment.

This bill, therefore, seeks to convert the Balabagan Trade School into a full polytechnic college to enhance its ability to develop a competent human resource base in the Province of Lanao del Sur and other adjacent provinces in Mindanao.

With a polytechnic college status, it is hoped that government can finally grant the institution the budgetary support it requires and, no doubt, deserves.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Benasing O. Macarambon, Jr.".

BENASING O. MACARAMBON, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3604**

Introduced by **REP. BENASING O. MACARAMBON, JR.**

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE BALABAGAN TRADE SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALABAGAN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR, INTO A STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALABAGAN STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Balabagan Trade School in the Municipality of Balabagan, Province of Lanao del Sur, is hereby converted into a state polytechnic college, under the supervision and control of the Commission on Higher Education, to be known as the Balabagan State Polytechnic College.

SECTION 2. The college shall provide advance and tertiary instruction in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food technology, and other vocational courses as may be deemed appropriate as well as expand curricular offerings to include professional and baccalaureate courses in literature, philosophy, sciences and the arts.

SECTION 3. The authority to preside over the operations of the college shall be vested in a Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4. The present faculty and staff of the Balabagan Trade School as well as the funds, assets, including the building, equipment and facilities shall be absorbed by the College. Provided, that no existing personnel shall be demoted in rank or suffer a reduction in salary.

SECTION 5. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall formulate and issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. Such amount as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act shall be taken by the Commission from its current annual appropriations. Thereafter, any such sums as may be necessary for the College's operations and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,