

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4559

Introduced by Honorable **ERICO BASILIO A. FABIAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill proposes to convert the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) in Zamboanga City into the Western Mindanao Regional State University System (WMRSUS) by the establishment of three additional autonomous campuses in Ipil and Malangas in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay and in Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur. Likewise, it strengthens the university's relationship with the integrated CHED-supervised institutions (CSI's) now known as the WMSU-Tampilisan Campus (formerly ZaNAC) in Zamboanga del Norte and WMSU-Dumingag Campus (formerly ZSAC) in Zamboanga del Sur.

In Region IX, only 6 out of the 39 higher education institutions (HEIs) are state-run; the rest are private. Given the cost of privately administered schools, students whose parents' financial capacities are inadequate end up being unable to pursue their educational aspirations, a factor which adds to the increasing demand for the establishment of state-run higher education institutions particularly in the far flung areas of the Zamboanga Peninsula. Although the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), as a state subsidized tertiary education institution, responded with the opening of its 16 external studies units (ESU), especially in the poverty-stricken municipalities of Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, the program—while it works well—proved inadequate for various reasons. Administering the ESUs is one, and is a serious concern given the distance of these units from the main campus, a problem that poses a threat to quality tertiary education.

Thus, the conversion of the WMSU into the Western Mindanao Regional State University (WMRSU) System will not only address the said concerns but also strengthen further the university's program in the countryside, as this will lead to the conversion of its strategic external studies units into autonomous campuses particularly those in Ipil and Malangas in Zamboanga Sibugay. Also, this will allow it to absorb more non-chartered, state-subsidized, tertiary education institutions in the region in the future in accordance with Section 4 (I) of R.A. 8292.

Likewise, the establishment of the three (3) Autonomous Campuses and at the level of earlier integrated CSI's, now known as WMSU-Tampilisan and WMSU-Dumingag, shall eventually bring the long-held dream of the less fortunate families in the area into reality — that of providing quality tertiary education to their children. These two integrated campuses now carry with them the trademark of excellence provided by the WMSU.

Finally, this Bill shall likewise put flesh to the Constitutional mandate for the State to "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." (Art. XIV, Sec. 1) Therefore, its immediate passage is highly recommended in order to insure the attainment of the objectives sought for.

ERICO BASILIO A. FABIAN
Zamboanga City

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4559

Introduced by Honorable ERICO BASILIO A. FABIAN

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY INTO THE WESTERN MINDANAO REGIONAL STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND DUTIES, AND 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. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Western Mindanao Regional State University System (WMRSUS) Act."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The State shall promote, foster, nurture and protect the rights of all citizens to quality education. Towards this end, it is the policy of the State to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education.

Section 3. *Conversion and Composition.* The Western Mindanao State University is hereby converted into the Western Mindanao Regional State University System (WMRSUS), a university to serve the Western Mindanao region, hereinafter referred to as the University, which shall be composed of the present Western Mindanao State University in Zamboanga City and its autonomous campuses—the former Zamboanga del Norte Agricultural College (ZaNAC) in Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte and the former Zamboanga del Sur Agricultural College (ZSAC) in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur—as well as its present extension campuses in the municipalities of Ipil and Malangas in Zamboanga

Sibugay, its extension campus in the City of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, and all of its existing External Studies Units in Region IX. The main campus of the University shall be its present campus at Normal Road, Baliwasan, Zamboanga City.

Section 4. *Purpose.* The purpose of the University is to provide the necessary leadership in professional and technical instruction in the arts, sciences, and technology in line with the goals for national, regional, and local development. The University shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the arts and sciences, education, medical sciences, agriculture, forestry, engineering and technology, and other courses necessary to meet the need for trained manpower in the Western Mindanao area, in particular, and the Southeast Asia region, in general. It shall promote research, extension, and production services in the various disciplines and fields of specialization for the advancement of knowledge and for the social, economic, political, and cultural development of the regions it serves.

Section 5. *University Laboratory School.* The University shall be allowed to maintain a reasonably-sized elementary and secondary laboratory school in any of its campuses where it maintains a College of Education. Likewise, the University may adopt public elementary and secondary schools in any of the cities or provinces in Region IX where its campus is located to serve as pilot centers for innovative teaching and learning strategies and approaches, to be operated and maintained under an appropriate memorandum of agreement between the University and the Department of Education.

Section 6. *Branches/Annexes.* The University may open new branches/annexes, or enter into consortium with other academic institutions, public or private, in Region IX.

Section 7. *Powers of the WMRSU System.* The following are the powers of the WMRSU System:

a) It shall have the general powers as set forth in Section Thirteen of Act numbered Fourteen Hundred Fifty-nine, as amended, and those enumerated under R.A. No. 8292. The exercise of its corporate powers and fiscal autonomy is hereby vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and in the President of the WMRSU System insofar as authorized by the Board.

b) It shall have the power to acquire public lands, real estate for its expansion and/or beneficial use; and to purchase motor vehicles, conveyances, and equipment and such other facilities necessary for the operation of the University.

c) As the regional University, it has the responsibility to maintain and enhance its high academic standards in the performance of the functions of instructions, research and extension, production, and public service.

Section 8. *The Governing Board.*

a) Composition – The governance of the WMRSU System is vested in the University Board of Regents, composed of the following:

- i) The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Chairman;
- ii) The President of the University, Vice Chairman;
- iii) The Chairman of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, House of Representatives;
- iv) The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture;
- v) The Regional Director (Region IX) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- vi) The Regional Director (Region IX) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- vii) The President of the federation of faculty associations of the University;
- viii) The President of the federation of student councils of the University;

- ix) The President of the federation of alumni associations of the University;
- x) The President of the federation of administrative personnel associations of the University;
- xi) Three (3) prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in their profession or field of specialization. They shall be appointed by the Board of Regents from a list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the cities or provinces where the University is located or where it has a College or unit, as recommended by a search committee constituted by the University President in consultation with the Chairman of the CHED based on normal standards and qualifications for the position; provided that at least two are alumni of the University.

b) Organization of Federation. For the purpose of the provisions of this section, the associations of faculty, alumni and administrative personnel and student councils in each campus or unit of the University shall organize themselves to form their federations which in turn shall elect their respective federation president and other officers. Pending the election of the president of each federation, the incumbent president of the faculty, alumni, and administrative personnel associations and student council of the University's main campus in Zamboanga City shall sit as *interim* members of the Board.

c) Term of Office. Each prominent citizen shall serve a term of two (2) years and may be re-appointed for another term; in case of vacancy, their successors shall be appointed to serve the unexpired term only. The term of the president of the faculty, student council, alumni, and administrative personnel federations shall be *co-terminus* with his incumbency as president of the federation he represents.

d) Meetings, Quorum. The Board of Regents shall regularly convene at least once every quarter. The Chairman of the

Board or the University President, as the Vice Chairman, may call a special meeting whenever necessary, provided that all members are notified in writing at least three (3) days prior to such meeting. Only matters specified in the notice shall be considered in any special meeting.

A simple majority of all members holding office shall constitute a quorum for board meetings; provided, that the Chairman of the CHED, who is the Chairman of the Board, or the University President is among those present in the meeting. However, the Chairman of the CHED may designate any of the Commissioners thereof to represent him in any of the board meetings, in which case said Commissioner shall act as presiding officer, with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member.

The Board members shall serve without compensation; however, they shall be entitled to such per diems and honorarium as may be determined by the Board during their attendance in any of the meetings thereof or in connection with official business authorized by Board resolution or the University President.

Section 9. Powers and Duties of the Governing Board.

The Board of Regents shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and such other powers as provided for under Section 4 of R.A. 8292 and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under Section 36 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, otherwise known as the Corporation Code of the Philippines:

a) To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the university;

b) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided, for the support of the University in the manner it may determine in its discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

c) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds, to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the benefit of the University, subject to limitations, directions and instructions of the donors, if any. Such donations shall be exempt from all taxes and shall be considered as deductible items from the income tax of the donor;

d) To fix the tuition and other necessary school charges, such as but not limited to matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as it may deem proper to impose after due consultations with the concerned sectors.

Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other incomes generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same fund for the use of the University;

Any income generated by the University from tuition and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University, which shall be disbursed by resolution of the Board of Regents for instruction, research, extension, and other programs and projects of the University, including the professional growth and development of its faculty and administrative personnel; provided, that all fiduciary funds shall be disbursed only for the purposes for which they are collected;

If for reasons beyond its control, the University shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the University President, shall authorize the use of said funds as it may deem necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University.

e) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and school fees for greater access by poor but deserving students;

f) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machineries, equipment and other facilities and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment. Purchases and other transactions, including importations of the University as authorized by the Board of Regents, shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;

g) To appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, vice presidents, chancellors, deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the University, and to suspend or remove or otherwise discipline them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;

h) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees subject to the provisions of the revised compensation and classification system and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service, and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, notwithstanding any provisions of existing laws to the contrary;

i) To approve the curricula, institutional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein provided;

j) To set policies on admission and graduation of students;

k) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of education, public service, arts, science and technology or in any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University and to authorize the award of certificates of completion of non-degree and non-traditional courses;

l) To absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within Region IX in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, and to offer therein needed programs or courses to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities mandated by the Constitution;

m) To establish research and extension centers of the University to promote its academic development as well as the socio-cultural, political and economic needs of Region IX;

n) To establish professorial chairs in the University and to provide fellowships to qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;

o) To delegate, under proper standards or guidelines, any of its powers and duties provided for herein to the University President and/or other officials of the University as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;

p) To authorize an external management audit of the University, to be financed by the CHED, and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

q) To collaborate with other governing boards of state universities and colleges within Region IX under the supervision of CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, for the restructuring of the University to become more efficient, relevant, productive, and competitive;

r) To enter into build, operate and transfer (BOT) and joint ventures/schemes with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which to be used for the development and strengthening of the University, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the privatization of any of the University's academic services;

s) To develop consortia and other forms of linkages with local government units, institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the University;

t) To develop academic arrangements for institution capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public or private, local or foreign, and to appoint experts/specialists as consultants, or visiting or exchange professors, scholars, researchers as the case may be;

u) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual system, open learning, community laboratory, etc. for the promotion of greater access to higher education;

v) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and transparency within the University; and

w) To extend the term of the President of the WMRSU System beyond the age of retirement but not beyond the age of seventy (70), whose performance has been rated as outstanding and upon recommendation by the search committee for the selection of the University President.

Section 10. *The Administration.* The administration of the WMRSU System shall be vested in the President of the University who shall render full-time service. The Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of a duly constituted search committee, shall appoint the University President. He shall serve a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term. The incumbent President of the WMSU shall automatically assume as President of the WMRSU System upon approval of this Act until the completion of his term under previous laws, provided that such automatic assumption of the incumbent

WMSU President as President of the WMRSU System shall not be considered as a term served under this Act.

The University President shall be assisted by an Executive Vice President, a Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Vice-President for Research, Extension and Development, Vice-President for Corporate Affairs, and Vice-President for External Affairs, all of whom shall be appointed by the Board of Regents upon the University President's recommendation, without prejudice to the appointment of such other vice presidents when so warranted. The term of office of the vice presidents shall be coterminous with that of the University President who recommended their appointment or as may be determined by the President and approved by the Board.

In case of vacancy by reason of death, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the University President to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an officer-in-charge pending the appointment of his successor. A successor appointed in this instance shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 11. *Powers of the President.* The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those usually pertaining to the Office of the President in similar educational institutions, shall include the following:

a) To exercise the general power of administration and management of the University;

b) To recommend to the Board of Regents the appointment of vice-presidents, directors, chancellors, deans, secretary of the University, registrars, department heads, heads of offices, professors, instructors, lecturers, and other employees of the University;

c) To promulgate for the governance of the University such rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as are consistent with the purpose of the University, subject to approval of the Board of Regents;

- d) To sit as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Regents;
- e) To call for special meetings of the Board of Regents when the need arises; and
- f) To exercise such other powers that may be delegated to him by the Board of Regents and/or the Commission on Higher Education.

Section 12. *The Chancellor.* The Chancellor shall be the head of the University autonomous campus and the head of the faculty thereof. He shall be appointed by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of the University President following the democratic process of consultation with the constituents of the campus, subject to the guidelines and qualification standards set by the Board. The Chancellor shall report to the President of the University, subject to the policies and rules prescribed by the Board of Regents. The Board shall likewise determine the term and compensation of the Chancellor in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management.

Section 13. *The Secretary of the University.* Upon the recommendation of the University President, the Board of Regents shall appoint a Secretary who shall serve as such for both the Board and the University. He shall keep such records of the Board and the University as may be required by the Board and the President of the University. He shall serve to each member of the Board notice of its meetings.

Section 14. *The Treasurer of the Philippines.* The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex-officio* treasurer of the University.

Section 15. *The Auditor of the University.* The Chairman of the Commission on Audit shall be the *ex-officio* auditor of the University and shall designate his representative who must hold regular office in the main campus of the University to be able to perform his duties efficiently and satisfactorily as a regular official of the University.

Section 16. *Administrative Council.* There shall be an Administrative Council, composed of the President of the University as chairman, with the vice presidents, chancellors, deans, directors, heads of divisions and sections, and other officials of equal rank as members. The council will review and recommend to the Board of Regents for approval policies governing the administration, management and development planning of the University.

Section 17. *The University Research Council.* There shall be a University Research Council, composed of the President of the University as chairman, the Vice President for Research, Extension and Development as vice-chairman, and the Dean of the University Research Center, Chancellors of the different autonomous campuses, Deans and Research Coordinators of the different colleges, Heads of institutes, and Principals of the integrated laboratory schools as members. The council shall formulate and recommend to the Board of Regents for approval policies and guidelines for research coordination and such rules as may be necessary to achieve a more integrated and effective research programs.

There shall be a University Research Center which shall be the coordinating and implementing arm of the University Research Council. The center shall integrate the research activities of the different academic units and faculty and plan research programs arising from the needs of the University. It shall coordinate with local and national agencies engaged in research projects consistent with the needs and objectives envisioned by the national development plan. The center shall be headed by a Dean, appointed by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of the President of the University, who will implement the policies and rules pertaining to research approved by the Board of Regents. He will have over-all responsibility, supervision and control with corresponding authority of all activities and personnel of the center, and shall be assisted by the chiefs and personnel of the different divisions of the University Research Center.

Section 18. *Academic Council.* There shall be an Academic Council, composed of the President of the University as chairman, the vice-presidents and all members of the instructional staff of the University with the rank not lower than assistant professor as members.

The academic council shall have the power to prescribe the curricular offerings of the University, subject to approval of the Board of Regents. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students as well as for graduation and the conferment of degrees, subject to approval of the Board of Regents, through the President of the University. The council, through the University President, shall have disciplinary power over the students within the limits prescribed by the rules of discipline approved by the Board of Regents.

Section 19. *Academic Freedom.* The University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy in accordance with Article XIV, Sec. 5, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

Section 20. *Admission.* No student shall be denied admission in the University by reason of sex, nationality, religion, political affiliation, or physical disability.

Section 21. *The University Policy, Planning and Budget Office (PPBO).* There shall be a Policy, Planning and Budget Office headed by a director, with a staff composed of a budget officer, planning officer, and committees on curriculum, student affairs, staff development, recruitment and promotion, physical plant, and external affairs. The Board of Regents, on recommendation of the University President, shall appoint the director and members of the committees. The PPBO shall assist the University President in policy formulation as well as in planning for the extension, growth, development, and proper management and operations of the University consistent with the over-all regional and national development plans.

Section 22. *The Officers of Administration.* The officers of the administration of the University are the President, the

Executive Vice President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Vice President for Research, Extension and Development, Vice President for External Affairs, Vice-President for Corporate Affairs, Chancellors of the different autonomous campuses, the Deans of the different Colleges, Secretary of the University, Director of Administrative Affairs, Dean of the University Research Center, Dean of Extension Services, Dean of External Studies, Dean of Admissions, Dean of Student Affairs, Director of Finance, Director of the PPBO, other University officers who may later be appointed, and those officers of CHED-supervised institutions that may later be integrated into the University System.

Section 23. *The Faculty and other Personnel of the University.* The body of professors and instructors of each college shall constitute its faculty under the direct supervision of a college dean appointed by the Board of Regents on nomination by the President of the University and upon recommendation of the Chancellor in case of the autonomous campuses, in accordance with the guidelines and standards promulgated by the Board of Regents.

In the appointment of professors, instructors, and other personnel of the University, no religious tests shall be required nor shall their religious opinions or affiliations be made a matter of examination or inquiry; provided, however, that no professor or instructor and/or personnel in the University shall inculcate sectarian tenets or beliefs in any of his teachings or require or influence student attendance in any meeting or gathering at the University to discuss issues for or against any particular church or religion.

The faculty of non-chartered CHED-supervised tertiary institutions in the Western Mindanao provinces, which shall be integrated into, or absorbed by, the University System, such as those mentioned in Section 3 of this Act, shall likewise constitute the faculty of the University which shall be under the direct supervision of a dean. Such faculty shall maintain their respective employment status without reduction or diminution in salary or demotion in position or rank unless otherwise provided for by the Board of Regents. The administrative personnel and other employees thereof

shall likewise be absorbed as employees of the University System without any reduction or diminution in position, rank, and/or salary.

Section 24. *Civil Service Requirements.* The President, chancellors, professors, and instructors of the University shall be exempt from any civil service examinations or regulations as a pre-requisite to appointment. However, they shall be entitled to the privileges and rights of security of tenure, promotion in position and salaries for meritorious service, sabbatical leave, leaves and retirement benefits, as to government service as now prescribed by law.

Section 25. *The Board of Visitors of the University.* The President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Commission on Higher Education, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Education shall constitute a Board of Visitors of the University whose function is to attend commencement exercises of the University, make visits to the University at such times as they may deem proper, examine the properties, books of accounts and financial condition of the University, and report and make recommendations to the President of the Philippines.

Section 26. *Appropriations.*

a) The appropriations of the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) and those integrated into the University, such as the Zamboanga del Norte Agricultural College (ZaNAC) in Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte, and the Zamboanga del Sur Agricultural College (ZSAC), in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur, and other colleges that may be absorbed by the University at the time of the conversion hereof are hereby transferred to the University. Thereafter, funds for the operations of the University System shall be included in the annual budget of the National Government, the total sum of which shall be recommended by the President and the Board of Regents of the University.

b) All public works appropriations earmarked for ZaNAC and ZSAC, located at Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte, and Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur, respectively, and such other colleges absorbed by the University by virtue of this Act are hereby transferred to the University; provided, that such appropriations shall continuously be allotted to the University through the General Appropriations Act.

c) A Special Trust Fund for capital outlay requirements and for the operation of the newly-created Autonomous Campuses in Ipil and Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay, and Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur, is hereby established, to be sourced as follows: (i) Ten (10%) percent of the annual Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of Zamboanga Sibugay, which shall be automatically appropriated and set aside by the provincial government of Zamboanga Sibugay, and directly transmitted by its provincial treasurer to the University, for exclusive application by the University to its newly-created Autonomous Campuses in Ipil and Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay; (ii) Ten (10%) percent of the annual IRA of the City of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, which shall be automatically appropriated and set aside by the city government of Pagadian, and directly transmitted by its city treasurer to the University, for exclusive application by the University to its newly-created Autonomous Campus in Pagadian City.

d) The sum of Thirty Million (P30,000,000.00) Pesos is hereby appropriated for the current operating expenditures (COE) of the newly-created Autonomous Campuses in Ipil and Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay, and Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur. Thereafter, funds shall be regularly provided in the General Appropriation Act.

Section 27. *Property of the WMRSU System.* The assets, fixed and movable, and records of the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) main campus, at Normal Road, Baliwasan, Zamboanga City, its College of Agriculture in San Ramon, Zamboanga City, including the La Paz Experimental Forest in

Zamboanga City under Proclamation No. 104, the Zamboanga del Norte Agricultural College (ZaNAC) in Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte, the Zamboanga del Sur Agricultural College, (ZSAC) in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur, and such other colleges that are absorbed or created under this Act shall be the property of the University System.

The provincial government of Zamboanga Sibugay shall provide the University for free at least ten (10%) hectares of land in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, which shall be used by the University for its Ipil Campus site. It shall also provide the University for free an additional fifty (50) hectares of land in the event the University opens a College of Agriculture in Ipil. The Office of the Congressional District of Zamboanga Sibugay shall cause to provide the University for free at least twenty (20) hectares of land which shall be used by the University for its Malangas (Zamboanga Sibugay) Campus site.

The city government of Pagadian shall provide the University for free at least ten (10) hectares of land, which shall be used by the University for its Pagadian Campus site. It shall also provide the University for free an additional fifty (50) hectares of land in the event the University opens a College of Agriculture in Pagadian City.

Section 28. *Cooperation of Government Bureaus and Offices.* The heads of bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon request of the President of the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the University and to detail employees for duty therein when in the judgment of the bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to the public service. Employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the University, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular services.

Section 29. *New Name.* Upon the approval of this Act, all of the existing campuses of the Western Mindanao State

University, including the Zamboanga del Sur Agricultural College (ZSAC) at Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur, and the Zamboanga del Norte Agricultural College (ZaNAC) in Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte, as well as the existing external studies units of the University in the region, shall be known as the Western Mindanao Regional State University System.

Section 30. *Filing of Report.* On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second month after the opening of regular classes each year, the President of the University shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines through the Chairman of the CHED, and with the Senate and House of Representatives a detailed report on the progress, conditions and needs of the University.

Section 31. *Non-diminution of Rights.* No statutory or other issuances shall diminish the powers, rights, privileges, and benefits accorded the University under this Act or presently enjoyed by the University under other issuances not otherwise modified or repealed under this Act, unless subsequent legislation expressly provides for their repeal, amendment or modification.

Section 32. *Interpretation.* In case of doubt in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Act, the same shall be resolved in favor of the fiscal autonomy and academic freedom of the Western Mindanao Regional State University System.

Section 33. *Implementation.* The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education is hereby directed to take such steps as are necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act.

Section 34. *Separability Clause.* Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

Section 35. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 36. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved.