

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4678



Introduced by Honorable JANETTE P. LORETO-GARIN, MD

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is important to man in order for him to live a better quality life. It is man's tool to success, happiness and stability. It has always been on top of the priorities of every Filipino household. For the poor, education is a basic tool to liberate them from poverty, ignorance, illiteracy, fear and other social and economic circumstances that prevents or hinder the full development of the human personality. Without education, man will lose the way to progress and dignity. However, due to poverty, poor people can seldom finish their chosen field of study due to the absence of an educational institution in their place of residence.

The main concept of an Agro-Tourism Educational Institution is to lead and provide educational opportunities to our youths. Considering that it will establish several campuses located all over the country, higher education will be made available at affordable cost to the Filipino youths. It will give them a chance to finish college thus, improve their status in life and standard of living.

On line with the constitutional mandate of promoting the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, approval of this bill is highly recommended.


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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN BARANGAY RIROAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF IGBARAS, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, TO BE KNOWN AS
THE PRESIDENT DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL AGRO-TOURISM STATE
COLLEGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in Brgy. Riroan, Municipality of Igaras, Province of Iloilo a state college to be known as the Diosdado Macapagal Agro-tourism State College, hereinafter referred to as the College.

SEC. 2. The College shall established fifteen (15) campuses outside of its main campus, five (5) in Luzon, five (5) in the Visayas and Five (5) in Mindanao, all of which the location are to be determined by the Board.

SEC. 3. The College shall have the following objectives:

1. To provide a program of studies, wholesome activities and excellent service to students towards greater access to quality education;

2. To develop within and among the students historico-critical method in formulating solutions to the problems of life in the society one lives in;
3. To emphasize the importance of labor craftsmanship and safety as one assumes responsibility in his/her chosen field of endeavor in the community, locally or globally;
4. To integrate the art of caring and protecting nature, environment and natural beautiful spots since they speak for the existence of the living Creator;
5. To give opportunities to the development of the Physical, Mental, spiritual, Social, Emotional and Cultural life of the students through various activities within the school premises and distant localities;
6. To enhance a strong administration, faculty and staff in academic excellence and quality performance in service which is worthy of emulation.

SEC. 4. The College shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of education, agriculture, forestry, engineering, arts and sciences and other degree courses as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives. It shall also offer opportunity in short term technical or vocational courses within its areas of specialization to meet the needs of the nation.

SEC. 5. The College shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in the Corporation Law. The administration of the College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of trustees and the President of the College insofar as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 6. The governing board of the College shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

Secretary of Education, as Chairman

President of the College, Vice-Chairman

Chairman of the Committee on Education of the Senate, Member

Chairman of the Committee on Education of the House of Representatives,
Member

Representatives of the National Economic and Development Authority, Member

President of the Faculty Association of the College, Member

President of the Supreme student Council of the College, Member

In addition, the Board may appoint as members, the following when deemed necessary:

President of the Alumni Association of the College

President of the Employees Association of the College

Two (2) prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization of the College chosen from among those qualified in the Province of Iloilo.

The Presidents of the Alumni Association and of the Employees Association as well as the two (2) prominent citizens so appointed by the Board shall have the same powers, authority and privileges as the regular members of the Board.

The Secretary of Education, the President of the College, the Education Committee Chairman of the Senate and the House, and the representative of the National Economic Development Authority shall have an *ex officio* term of office, while the

Presidents of the Faculty Association and the Supreme Student Council and when deemed necessary, the Presidents of the Alumni Association and the Employees Association shall serve for one (1) year and when likewise necessary, the two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for four (4) years and two (2) years, respectively.

SEC. 7. The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared state policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports.

SEC. 8. The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under existing laws:

- a) To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as any be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- b) T receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the College in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- c) To import duty-free essential commodities, materials and equipment for educational or technological programs as an exception to existing laws, provided such commodities, materials and equipments are not available locally;
- d) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the benefit of the College and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any. Such donations shall be

exempt from all taxes and shall be considered as deductible items from the income tax of the donor;

- e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges such as but not limited to matriculation fess, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose. Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other incomes generated by the College, constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank. Any and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the College. Any provision of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, incomes generated by the College, may at the discretion of the Board, be disbursed for the professional growth and development, health, welfare and other similar benefits of the faculty member and personnel, for the acquisition, construction, maintenance and repair of urgently needed instructional and auxiliary facilities, equipment, buildings and other infrastructures and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under this Act. If for any reason, the College shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated for reasons beyond control and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which in its discretion may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the College;
- f) To authorize the construction or repair of its building, 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 entered into by the College through the Board shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;

- g) To Confirm appointments of Vice-presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty members and other officials and employees of the College made by the President of the College;
- h) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees;
- i) To approve the curricula, institutional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils as herein provided;
- j) To confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation, 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 and it authorize the award of certificates for completion of non-degrees and non-tradition courses;
- k) To establish branches in the cities and provinces if and when it becomes essential and necessary where there is not existing school offering similar programs or courses to promote and carry out equal access to education opportunities as mandated by the Constitution; and
- l) To establish chairs in the College and to provide fellowship for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students.

SEC 9. A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all members holding office at the of the meeting: *Provided, however,* that among those present are the Secretary of Education, Culture, and Sports who is Chairman of the Board, or the President of College who acts as presiding officer in the formers absence. The Board shall convene regularly once every two (2) months. The Chairman of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary.

The members of the Board shall not receive salary but shall be entitled for reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred either in attendance in meeting

of the Board or in other official business authorized by resolution of the Board subject to existing laws on honoraria and allowances.

SEC 10. The College shall be headed by a President to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Board and shall hold office for a term of six (6) years without reappointment unless he reaches the age of retirement or earlier removed for cause or incapacities to discharge the duties of the office.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, resignation, incapacity of the President to perform the functions of his office, or removal for cause, The Board shall have the authority to designate an officer-in-charge of the College pending the appointment of a successor. The new President shall hold office for the unexpired term but in no case shall his term be more than six (6) years subject to the provision of the preceding paragraph.

The powers and duties of the President of the College, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of the College.

The Salary of the president of the College shall be fixed by the Board and shall be comparable to that being received by the President of similar education institution of like enrollment and standing.

SEC 11. The President of the College, whose term be terminated according to this Act, shall be entitled to full retirement benefits under existing laws.

SEC 12. There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the College, as Chairman, the vice-president(s), deans, directors and other officials of equal rank, whose duty is to implement the policies governing the administration, management and development planning of the College as approved by the Board.

SEC 13. There shall be an Academic Council with the President of the College as Chairman and all members of the instructional staff with the rank of not lower than assistant professor as members. The Academic Council shall have the power to prescribe curricular offering subject to the approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for admission to the College as well as for graduation and the conferring of degrees subject to review and/or approval by the Board through the President of the College. It shall also

have disciplinary power through the President over the students within the limits prescribed by the rules of discipline as approved by the Board.

SEC 14. There shall be a Secretary of the College who shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the College. He shall also be the Secretary of the Board and shall keep such records of the College as may be determined by the Board.

SEC 15. The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex-officio* treasurer of the College.

SEC 16. Members of the faculty of the College shall be exempt from any civil service examination or regulation as a requisite for appointment. No religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry In the appointment of faculty members of the College: *provided, however*, that no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC 17. No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of sex, nationality, religion, or political affiliation.

SEC 18. The College shall enjoy academic freedom.

SEC 19. On or before the fifteenth day of the second month after the opening of regular classes each year, The Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines through the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports and to both Houses of Congress a detailed report on the progress, conditions and needs of the College.

SEC 20. All accounts and expenses of the College shall be audited by the Commission on Audit or its duly authorized representative.

SEC 21. Heads of Bureaus and Officers of the National Government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon request of the President of the College such apparatus, equipments or supplies as may be needed by the College, and to detail employees for duty therein, when, in the judgment of the head 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 College, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular service.

SEC 22. It shall be a continuing policy of the College to accept the affiliation and/or integration within its operation of any existing national schools whose program can contribute largely and effectively to the attainment of its objectives: *Provided, however,* That in case of integration, the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports is hereby authorize to determine and approve the specific existing national schools that are to be integrated as part of the President Diosdado Macapagal Agro-Tourism State College. In this particular case, it is understood that all funds, properties, and other assets, as well as obligations of the integrated schools shall be transferred to the College.

SEC 23. All parcels of public land that shall be transferred or other lands to be acquired for the use of the President Diosdado Macapagal Agro-Tourism State College shall be titled under that name: *Provided,* That should the College cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of land be no longer needed by the College, the same shall revert to the Province of Iloilo.

SEC 24. The amount necessary for the establishment of the College shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Education, Culture and Sports under the current General Appropriations Art. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its operations and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 25. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC 26. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,