

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6056



Introduced by Congressman JUAN C. PONCE ENRILE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The TESDA-Aparri School of Arts and Trades (ASAT), dubbed as “*The Center of Technical Excellence*” located at Rizal St., Maura Aparri, Cagayan, is one of the 125 TESDA Training Institutions in the country. The school offers occupational skills training geared primarily towards middle-level manpower to fill local and foreign labor markets and employment needs in business and industry. Training is provided through the three program offerings, such as the Regular Post-Secondary Non-Degree Program, the Short-Term Program and the Community Based (extension) Program. Classroom instruction and training modalities are carried out through the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). While the school is on the CBC mode of training delivery, all courses under the Regular Program and Short Term programs are ladderized, implementing Executive Order No. 358, otherwise known as the “Ladderized Interface Between Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education (HE)”.

TESDA-ASAT’s organizational structure is currently manned by 66 personnel headed by a Vocational School Administrator. It operates on a total annual budget of Twenty Million Pesos (P20M), where Fourteen Million Five Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Pesos (P 14, 536,000.00) thereof alone is earmarked for Personal Services (PS). The remaining Five Million Four Hundred Sixty Four Thousand Pesos (P5, 464,000.00) is set aside for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE).

TESDA-ASAT, formerly known as the Aparri Vocational High School, was established in 1928 and was funded by the provincial government Cagayan in 1942. Under Republic Act No. 3732, the school was converted into a school of arts and trades known as Aparri School of Arts Trades (ASAT) to offer courses in both secondary and collegiate levels.

In 1972, ASAT offered a two-year technical education program (post-secondary). With the emergence of the “university system” the above-mentioned post-secondary education of ASAT was transferred to the Cagayan State University in 1978 by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1436.

Despite the transfer and loss of its post-secondary education program, ASAT applied for and was granted accreditation to offer its own post-secondary courses in 1986. The operation thereof started in 1988. Moreover, the school was even authorized to offer an Associate in Hotel and Restaurant Management course effective collegiate year 1997-1998 by virtue of CHED Order No. 36, Series of 1997. In the following school year, ASAT’s request for the offering of a Bachelor

of Science in Industrial Education Technology (BSIT) course was approved by virtue of CHED Order No. 12, Series of 1998.

With the creation of R.A. 7796 known as the TESDA Act of 1994, ASAT which was one of the schools under the Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education (BTVE) of the then DECS, was absorbed by the Technical Education and Skills Development authority (TESDA) in 1997. Much as ASAT would have wanted to offer an Associate course in HRM and a BSIT degree in 1998 (as approved by CHED), Sec. 5 of the TESDA Act however prohibits the same. More particularly:

Sec. 5. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; Creation. – To implement the policy declared in this Act, there is hereby created a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), hereinafter referred to as Authority, which shall replace and absorb the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC) and the personnel and functions pertaining to technical-vocational education in the regional offices of the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS) and the apprenticeship program of the Bureau of Local Employment and Department of Labor and Employment.

In the same TESDA Act, TESDA's training functions (i.e. education and training delivery) was devolved. Inasmuch as one of the options for devolution is through congressional legislation, TESDA-ASAT hereby seeks its devolution thru said legislative mandate. Consequently, this exercise is tantamount to its conversion into a polytechnic college in the Municipality of Aparri.

There is no denying that there is a pending House Bill relative to the conversion of ASAT into Polytechnic College. In 1994, ASAT through the help of the local government of the Municipality of Aparri, presented to Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, then Congressman of the 1st District of Cagayan, a Position Paper re: Request for the Conversion/Upgrading of the Aparri School of Arts and Trades to Aparri Technician Institute. In 1995, the said paper was endorsed to the office of Hon. Patricio T. Antonio, who was then the new Congressman of the district where House Bill No. 4960 was introduced. In 1998 this proposal of conversion was transferred to the Office of Hon. Juan C. Ponce Enrile, Jr., who was then already Congressman up to the present. The said office proposed the conversion from Aparri Technician Institute (ATI) to "Cagayan Polytechnic College" (CPC) effective S.Y. 1998-1999. However, due to time constraints coupled with stringent TESDA policies, the conversion failed to materialize. Once again, the undersigned humbly appeals for the conversion of the TESDA-Aparri School of Arts and Trades into a polytechnic college to be named as the Aparri Polytechnic College (APC).

As a Polytechnic College, the school shall not lose its identity as a technology training institution. Instead, the same will continue to cater to technology skills development in accordance with the standards, policies and regulations prescribed by TESDA as far as curriculum offerings/programs, registration of courses through the Unified TVET Program Registration and Accreditation System (UTPRAS), assessment and certification as well as other TESDA policies and standards are concerned.

It is worthy to note that sometime in 1997, ASAT was designated by former President Fidel V. Ramos as the Training Center for manpower requirements of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA). The facilities of ASAT are strategically located near CEZA. It would thus best meet the demands and needs of CEZA and other industries within its service area, including the region at large.

The roster of its graduates includes pioneers in the fields of vocational/technical education, countless craftsmen, artisans and educators who have integrated themselves into the fabric of national life.

Viewed in the context of national development and global competitiveness, it is now imperative that TESDA-Aparri School of Arts and Trades be converted into a polytechnic college. As such as institution, it shall be able to update and upgrade its facilities, improve its finances (not only its regular budget allocation from the National Government but also financial resources generated from established Income Generating Projects (IGP), strengthen its faculty and staff development programs, and intensify its research and extension programs and projects to produce high caliber technicians, engineers and scientists.

Its new status will demand the pursuit of basic, applied and technical research, feasibility studies, and other studies that will expand the role of teachers and facilitators of national development and as instruments for developing the youth into worthy, dignified and productive citizens of the country.

It is for this purpose that its conversion into a polytechnic college is proposed and the early passage of this measure into law is earnestly requested.



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF TESDA-APARRI SCHOOL OF
ARTS AND TRADES INTO THE APARRI POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE,
DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND
FUNCTIONS, EXPANDING ITS PROGRAM AND CURRICULAR OFFERINGS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The present TESDA –Aparri School of Arts and Trades (ASAT) in the Municipality of Aparri is hereby converted into a polytechnic college to be known as the Aparri Polytechnic College, herein referred to as APC. The main campus of the APC shall be located in the Municipality of Aparri.

SECTION 2. The APC shall provide advance technical and technological education for the applied arts, sciences and advanced technology at the level of the technician, the technologists and the scientists. The APC in particular shall continue to offer occupational skills training geared primarily towards middle-level manpower to fill local and foreign labor markets and the employment needs of business and industry. The training shall be provided through the three program offerings, like the Regular Post-Secondary non-degree program, the Ladderized Education Program (LEP), Short-Term Program and the Community-Based (extension) program. It shall serve as the center for technological, professional and occupational training with emphasis on the utilization and development of appropriate technologies leading to Higher Education Program for a productive economy. It shall also promote applied research and progressive leadership in the stated fields and effect transfer of technology to the countryside and growth centers in Aparri and nearby communities.

SECTION 3. The administration of the APC and the exercise of administrative power shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees and in the Office of the President of the APC in so far as the latter is authorized by the Board.

SECTION 4. The governing body of the APC shall be the Board of Trustees of the APC which shall be composed of the following: Director General of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Chairman; President of the APC, Vice-Chairman; Municipal Mayor of Aparri, Member; Chairman of the House Committee on Technical and Higher Education, Member; Chairman of the Senate Committee on Technical and Higher Education, Member; two representatives from the local and

national industry association, Members; Representative of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Member; President of the Faculty and Employees Association of the APC, Member; President of the Student Council of the APC, Member; and two private persons who are prominent and proficient in technical education, Members.

The President of the APC, the Chairmen of the Education Committee of the Senate and of the House, the Representative of the National Economic Development and Authority and the Municipal Mayor shall have an ex-officio term of office, while the presidents of the Faculty and Employees Association and the Student Council shall serve for one (1) year and two representatives from the industry association shall serve for two (2) years.

Thereafter, the appointee shall hold office for a term of four (4) years. In case of vacancy, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term only.

In the absence of the Director General of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Vice Chairman shall preside over the meetings and discharge the functions of the Chair.

SECTION 5. The Board of Trustees of the APC shall exercise policy-making functions in accordance with the general policies, plans and programs on national and regional development as may be issued by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and shall see to it that the general educational policies, plans and programs formulated and promulgated are adopted and observed by the APC.

SECTION 6. The Board of Trustees shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to the general powers as provided for in the Corporation Code of the Philippines:

- a. To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and functions of the APC.
- b. To receive and appropriate the funds specified by law such as may be provided for the support of the APC.
- c. To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the APC subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any.
- d. To approve the curricula and rules of discipline designed by the APC as herein provided.
- e. To confer diplomas and degrees upon successful candidates for graduation, to award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning, public service, leadership or eminence in any field of specification of the APC and to authorize the President of the APC to award certificates for completion of non-degree programs.
- f. To establish and provide faculty development programs for qualified faculty members and scholarship to deserving students.
- g. To fix training fees and such other necessary school charges as the Board of Trustees may deem proper to impose. Such fees and charges including other income generated by APC shall constitute a special trust fund for the

exclusive use of APC, any provision of any existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding.

- h. To confirm the appointments of vice-president, directors, heads of departments, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the APC appointed by the President of the APC.

SECTION 7. A quorum of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a majority of all members holding office at the time of the meeting, Provided; however, that among those present are the Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority who is the Chairman thereof or the President of the APC, who is the Vice Chairman and shall act as temporary presiding officer during meetings in case of the absence of the former.

SECTION 8. The APC shall be headed by a President to be appointed by the Board of Trustees and shall hold office for a term of five (5) years, of which the beginning and end of term of office must be clearly specified in the appointment made by the Board of Trustees. The powers and duties of the President of the APC in addition to those specifically provided for under RA 8292 shall be those already pertaining to the office of the President of the APC.

SECTION 9. There shall be a Technical Instruction Council with the President of APC as Chairman and all the instructional staff with the rank of not lower than assistant professor as Members.

The Council shall have the power to review and recommend curricular offerings and rules of discipline subject to appropriate action of the Board of Trustees. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of the students to the APC as well as the graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to and/or approval of the Board of Trustees through the President of APC. The Council shall likewise have the power to recommend students to be recipients of degrees. Through the President of APC or his duly authorized representative, the Council shall have disciplinary power over the students within the limits prescribed by the rules of discipline as approved by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 10. No student shall be denied admission by reason of sex, nationality, religion, political affiliation or physical disability.

SECTION 11. The members of the Board of Trustees shall not receive any compensation other than the authorized allowance per meeting, Provided; however, that they shall be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses incurred in their attendance of meetings or other official functions.

SECTION 12. All parcels of land, buildings, equipment and facilities, school personnel, and records owned by the TESDA-Aparri School of Arts and Trades including obligations and appropriations thereof shall be transferred to the Aparri Polytechnic College.

SECTION 13. The Operation and maintenance of the APC and other services shall be supported with national funds and financed by the National Government. All other salaries of the officials, faculty and employees shall be paid by the National Government.

The present teachers and personnel of the TESDA-Aparri School of Arts and Trades shall continue to serve in the same capacity, position and of equal rank in APC.

The APC, when feasible, is authorized to organize technical centers which shall serve as hands-on laboratories for students, and is authorized to generate and retain income from the operation of these centers providing products and services, and such income shall be utilized to improve instruction and/or to be shared with allowable and reasonable limits among the students and project instructor in-charge for services rendered.

SECTION 14. Pursuant to Section 15 of Presidential Decree No. 1437, the APC shall be deemed attached to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for purposes of policy standard and program coordination.

SECTION 15. All existing appropriations for the TESDA-Aparri School of Arts and Trades are hereby transferred to the Aparri Polytechnic College and shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Thereafter, such sums necessary for the operation and maintenance of the APC is hereby authorized to be appropriated under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 16. The incumbent Vocational School Administrator of the TESDA-Aparri School of Arts and Trades shall continue to serve as President of the Aparri Polytechnic College until a permanent appointee shall have been appointed by the Board of Trustees and has qualified for the position, Provided; that, in the event that the incumbent President shall not qualify as President of the APC, he shall be entitled to full retirement benefits.

SECTION 17. The Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority is directed to take such steps as are necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act.

SECTION 18. All laws, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 19. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.