

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **4129**



Introduced by **HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

More than 60 years since its establishment, first as the Masbate National Agricultural School (MNAS) in 1952, then as the Masbate Agricultural College (MAC) before becoming the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial Agricultural College (DEBESMAC) and later to its present status as a state college since 1995, the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology (DEBESMSCAT) has grown to become a leading institution of higher and advanced education in the province of Masbate, its main service area.

Though the service area of the State College is the whole province of Masbate, only those living in the nearby municipalities could afford to enroll in the State College due to distance. Many Masbateños are deprived of the quality yet affordable education that the State College provides. Hence, the State College, in coordination and with funding assistance from the Municipal Government of Cawayan and other offices, established the DEBESMSCAT Cawayan Learning Site, which offers TESDA courses and two-year non-degree programs. However, there are still many Masbateños who are eager to avail of the program offerings of DEBESMSCAT, especially those in the far-flung municipalities.

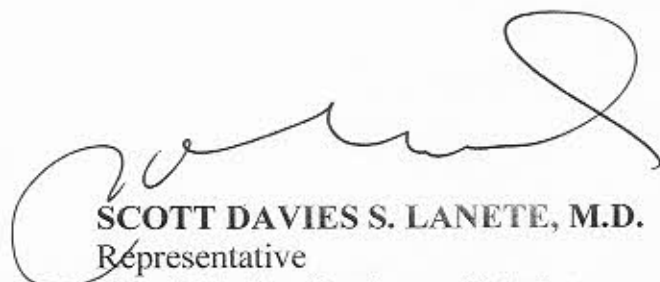
Hence, this proposal of establishing regular campuses in the different strategic municipalities in the Province of Masbate. A campus in the City of Masbate would cater to the educational needs of students from the City of Masbate and the Municipalities of Milagros, Mobo and Uson while a campus in Aroroy would provide affordable and quality education for enrollees in the

Municipalities of Aroroy and Baleno and portion of Claveria of the island of Burias. The Cawayan campus would cater to the tertiary education of the municipalities of the Third Congressional District such as Cawayan, Placer, Cataingan, Pio V. Corpus, Esperanza, Dimasalang and Palanas and part of Uson.

For island-municipalities, a campus in the municipality of San Jacinto is situated strategically and is also a necessity as it would service the municipalities of San Jacinto, San Fernando, Batuan and Monreal, all of Ticao Island, and the municipalities of San Pascual and portion of Claveria of the Burias Island.

DEBESMSCAT is perhaps the most recognized learning institution in the Province of Masbate because of its culture of excellence among its management, faculty and students. This is proven with the continuous growth of the institution and the quality graduates that DEBESMSCAT produces. Its expansion by establishing additional campuses in several municipalities would allow the institution to branch out its curricular offerings, expand its leadership influence among Masbateños and broaden its academic services including research and extension services. In addition, it would also contribute to the improvement of the education indicators in the Province of Masbate as it would provide a valuable opportunity to extend what DEBESMSCAT is offering to more students not only in the main campus in the municipality of Mandaon but in the entire province as well.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.



SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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HOUSE BILL No. _____

Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING REGULAR CAMPUSES OF THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CITY OF MASBATE AND MUNICIPALITIES OF AROROI AND SAN JACINTO, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment* – Additional extension campuses, all in the Province of Masbate, are hereby established and shall be known as follows:

1. Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology – Masbate City Campus;
2. Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology – Aroroy Campus; and
3. Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology – San Jacinto Campus.

SECTION 2. *Objectives* – Just like the main campus of the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology, hereinafter referred to as the State College, located in the Municipality of Mandaon, Province of Masbate, the other campuses shall provide quality and affordable higher and advanced education to the people. They shall develop and provide relevant academic programs and technological amenities that will produce graduates whose training and education will eventually hasten the socio-economic development of the Province of Masbate.

SECTION 3. *Curricular Offerings* – The State College campuses outside the main campus shall also offer, among others, courses related to agriculture, education, information technology, fishery and marine sciences. They shall also offer other relevant courses according to their capabilities and as the Board of Trustees of the State College, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly in meeting the needs of the province of Masbate.

SECTION 4. *Administration* – The administration of the State College campuses in Masbate City, Aroroy and San Jacinto shall be vested in the Board in accordance with Republic Act No. 7945, otherwise known as the “College Charter” and Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997.”

The Board shall have full authority and discretion in determining the organizational structure, academic, research and extension programs, the qualifications and number of academic personnel, admission of students and such other matters related to the administration and operation of the State College campuses.

SECTION 5. *Campus Site* – The Main Campus of the State College shall be located in the Municipality of Mandaon, particularly in Barangay Cabitan. The said site surveyed under PSU-143746, with an area of approximately 36,603,786 square meters, and approved by the Bureau of Lands on November 3, 1954 is hereby declared as the property of the State College.

The Board, in coordination with the concerned local government units shall identify the sites for the State College campuses in Masbate City, Aroroy and San Jacinto.

It is hereby declared that ownership over all areas identified as suitable State College campuses shall be vested in the State College and titles transferred under its name.

SECTION 6. *Rules and Regulations* – Not later than the opening of the next school year following the approval of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Filing Report* – Within three (3) months after the implementation of this Act, the Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, and with both Houses of Congress a detailed report on the actions it has taken pursuant hereto.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations* – The local government units of the City of Masbate and Municipalities of Aroroy and San Jacinto shall provide assistance to the respective State College campuses within their jurisdiction until such time that the full funding requirements of the said campuses are included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause* – 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 11. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,