

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5596**



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE ESTRELLITA "GING" B. SUANSING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Research and Development is a major driver for the Philippines to become a knowledge and innovation center especially in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and the natural resources (AFNR). Technologies in these areas are recognized as major determinants of economic growth. They provide the key to lifting the poorest out of poverty.

A strategic and sustained support with higher investment in science and technology education is essential to develop effective leaders and a competent scientific human resource base for realizing this vision. Higher educational institutions, in particular the state universities and colleges (SUCs), are mandated to perform this critical function. Moreover, quality and excellence in higher education entails quality research which is the lifeblood of tertiary institutions. The ultimate measure of the credibility of an institution of higher learning is based not only on the quality of its curricular programs but also on its vital contribution to the advancement of science and technology, its discoveries, research breakthroughs and patented inventions. Universities as institutions of higher learning should be places where change and progress emanate. Hence, tertiary institutions must be schools of education and schools of research. For this purpose, there is a need to enhance the capability of SUCs by providing additional funding support to become more effective in performing this function.

The Central Luzon State University (CLSU) is one of the oldest state universities in the country. From its establishment as a farm school in 1907, it pioneered in agricultural higher education. Over the years, it has metamorphosed into a model and leading general and comprehensive university with specialization in agriculture, fisheries, agricultural engineering and veterinary medicine having contributed significantly in manpower development, knowledge generation and technology development in these fields. CLSU is

recognized by the Commission on Higher Education as Center of Excellence (COE) in the aforementioned areas along with Biology and Teacher Education. With its six COEs, CLSU has the most number among state universities and colleges outside of the UP System. Additionally, CLSU is also designated as National University College of Agriculture and Fisheries (NUCAF) under the National Agriculture and Fisheries Education System (NAFES) under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA).

It is a fact that the Philippines is very dependent on foreign technology because of our weak research-innovation capability. The advent of globalization has further exposed this vulnerability because many of our faculty researchers have not been trained to create and develop technologies because of the lack of an enabling environment such as inadequate infrastructure facilities and equipment, and limited funding support for R&D.

According to the Global Competitiveness Ranking contained in the World Economic Forum Report for 2014-2015, the Philippines ranked 75th among 144 countries in the area of Quality of Scientific Research Institutions under the Innovation Pillar, trailing Singapore (11th), Malaysia (20th), Indonesia (41st), and Thailand (61st). For the indicator on Availability of Scientists, our ranking of 71st is lower than that of Malaysia (9th), Singapore (16th), Indonesia (31st), and Thailand (54th). In terms of Patent Applications, Singapore (14th), Malaysia (34th) and Thailand (69th) outrank the Philippines with its ranking of 88.

Based on the above scenario, the need to further promote and develop research capability among leading state universities is very urgent by providing world-class infrastructure facilities and equipment, where a critical mass of S&T-enabled, educated and effective human resources are required through graduate education, experimentation, and innovation.

With this proposed Act, it is envisioned that the Central Luzon State University as the National (Prime) Agricultural University will be better capacitated and more able to effectively integrate education, science and innovation as a single concept and entity for agricultural progress and development in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
ENHANCING THE CAPABILITY OF THE CENTRAL LUZON STATE
UNIVERSITY TO BECOME A NATIONAL (PRIME) AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Central Luzon State University Agricultural Research Capability Enhancement Act.”

SEC.2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Central Luzon State University is hereby declared as a National (Prime) Agricultural Research University.

The State shall promote, foster, nurture and protect the right of all citizens to quality education. Toward this end, it is the policy of the State to enhance the capability of the Central Luzon State University to become the National (Prime) Agricultural Research University.

SEC.3. *Purpose of the University.* –The Central Luzon State University shall develop globally competitive, work-ready, socially-responsible and empowered human resources who value life-long learning; and to generate, disseminate, and apply knowledge and technologies in agriculture, fisheries

and natural resources for poverty alleviation, environmental protection, and sustainable development. The University shall:

- a. Create, develop and implement undergraduate and graduate curricular programs which are compliant to national and international standards;
- b. Provide a teaching and learning environment that provides opportunities for critical and analytical thinking, character building, skills training, and leadership training where adequate facilities and resources are available and accessible;
- c. Promote a dynamic culture of research and other scholarly works among its faculty members and students;
- d. Lead in the pursuit of new knowledge not only in the established areas of inquiry but also in the rapidly advancing frontiers of science and technology;
- e. Establish and evolve interdisciplinary and collaborative research capability as a comprehensive agricultural research university providing an enabling environment that optimizes creativity and productivity, and supports a vibrant cutting-edge research in the new and emerging frontiers of science and technology that will spur innovations and solutions to address national and global issues in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and natural resources;
- f. Develop new technologies, services, management schemes, knowledge, information systems and best practices needed for effective and efficient food security and safety, nutrition, health, local governance, poverty alleviation, renewable energy systems, environmental protection and conservation towards sustainable development;
- g. Establish diverse platforms that will lead the university to achieve a distinction in research activities that will lead to the development of enterprises that support public service and social responsibility that will foster the economic prosperity of the region and the

country, at the same time providing practical, enriching, transformative and inclusive learning opportunities;

- h. Develop and cultivate a dynamic, complementary and synergistic partnership with international academic and research institutions, and with the private sector and industry, in order to achieve transnational and global stature thus becoming a fully-engaged service university; and
- i. Pursue initiatives that will promote complementation and synergy, where programmatic and physical interconnectivities are fully achieved that will allow scholarly exchanges, formal and informal interactions encompassing the entire scope of the academic enterprise as a vibrant and thriving community fully connected and engaged to the outside world in the spirit of a seamlessly integrated academic community.

SEC.4. *Academic Freedom.* – The CLSU has the right and responsibility to exercise academic freedom.

SEC.5. *Academic Excellence.* – The CLSU believes that the relentless pursuit of quality and excellence constitutes the foundational element of its existence.

SEC. 6. *Inclusiveness and Stewardship.* – The CLSU supports and sustains an equitable community that will have access to the benefits of education and discovery.

SEC. 7. *Innovativeness and Creativity.* – The CLSU considers research as the lifeblood of the institution to be further nurtured and cultivated as it provides the energy and dynamism in its quest to become a comprehensive agricultural research university.

SEC.8. *Commitment to Public Service.* – The CLSU recognizes that its core purpose is to serve the interest of the people in Central Luzon, the country and the Asian region through the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge.

SEC. 9. *Capability Enhancement.* – In order to become the National (Prime) Agricultural Research University, CLSU must develop advanced research and development centers (ARDC) in areas where the university has the proven expertise and established credible track record. The areas of enhancement are in the following: Human Resource Development; Infrastructures and Facilities Development; Equipment Acquisition; and Research and Development.

These ARDCs are the following:

- a. Center for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Research and Development (CFARRD);
- b. Small Ruminants Center (SRC);
- c. Center for Climate Change and Environmental Management (C3EM);
- d. CLSU Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center and Analytical Laboratory (CABAL);
- e. Laboratory for Epidemiology and Animal Disease Diagnostics (LEAD); and
- f. CLSU Learning, Innovation and Knowledge Center (CLSU LiNk Center).

SEC. 10. *Tax Exemptions.* - Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended: Provided, That the allowable deductions shall be equivalent to 150 percent to the value of such donation. Valuation of assistance other than money shall be based on the acquisition cost of the property. Such valuation shall take into consideration the depreciated value of property in case said property has been used.

SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the lump sum appropriation of the current fiscal year and other internal funds of the

national (prime) agricultural research university. Thereafter, such lump sum representing the responsibility of the national government for the continued growth, operation maintenance of the national (prime) agricultural research university shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The national (prime) agricultural research university may use unexpended balances in any appropriation for purposes that the Board determines.

In addition to the regular appropriations and increases for the university under the annual GAA, an enhancement fund shall be appropriated in the amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00) per year for a period of five years, which shall likewise be included in the annual GAA.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *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,