

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6931



Introduced by Rep. Dale "Along" R. Malapitan

Explanatory Note

The advent of the 1987 Philippine Constitution set the stage for our country to fully embrace what is so-called a "culture of education". For the first time since the establishment of our Republic, our fundamental law today guarantees in no uncertain terms the right of all citizens to quality education at all level which the State shall not only protect and promote but also make education accessible to all.

Thus, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that: "The State shall protect and promote the right of every citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

To realize the attainment of the very intent of this mandated constitutional guarantee, Section 5, item (5) of the same Article requires the State to assign the highest budgetary priority to education.

It has been thirty years since the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, yet a lot has remained to be desired in terms of making education truly accessible to all. While it is true that the government has religiously toed the line by allocating the biggest budget for education in our annual national expenditure program, yet there are still certain issues and imperatives that need to be addressed and instituted in order that public educational institutions are within easy reach by students, most especially those coming from areas with large catchment populations and where incidence of poverty is high.

It bears mentioning that in Metro Manila North, is also known as the CAMANAVA area, there exist not a single state university or college nor a campus thereof which students of this area may access for their tertiary, professional and technical education. These so-called SUCs in the National Capital Region are only found in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Marikina, Pasay, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Taguig and Pasig with campuses in various parts or regions of the country, but not in Metro Manila North.

The absence of state sponsored tertiary educational institutions in Metro Manila North or CAMANAVA area perforce requires their college students to seek admission in SUCs outside their city residence where they may qualify. This situation however, and coupled with the worsening traffic which is a common

place in Metro Manila, puts the family to incur an extra expense, rob students of their productive time and/or promote disenchantment or disinterest amongst the youth to pursue or complete their college or technical education.

The 2016 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey or APIS, conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), showed the country has 3.8 million out-of-school children and youth (OSCY) or about 10% of the 39 million Filipinos with age range from 6 to 24 years old.

The report also indicated that of the total out-of-school children and youth, 87.3% were 16 to 24 years old which is equivalent to 3.4 million out-of-school youth. These are the very group of young people who are supposedly taking up college or technical vocational education.

The proportion of OSCY was also higher among females than males according to the APIS. And the top four reasons found to have kept our youth out of schools are lack of income, marriage among females, high cost of education, and lack of interest.

In the National Capital Region alone, there are around 470,000 out-of-school children and youth, with around 410,310 aged 16 to 24 years old. That, while it is not clear in the report as to which part of Metro Manila that these out-of-school youth belong, it may be safe to assume that a large number thereof may come from Metro Manila North considering its size and population of more than two million eight hundred nineteen thousand (2,819,000) based on the 2015 Census of Population, the prevailing high incidence of poverty, and the tangible absence of any public tertiary educational institution therein. Necessary, because of this obtaining condition and the staggering numbers of OSCY, this problem has to be addressed post haste.

The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity, it was once said. To achieve a strong nation, we have to empower and build them for the future. And what better way to realize this objective than by having a well-educated, highly skilled group of young people who will someday take the responsibility of furthering, assuring and protecting our nation's future.

It is therefore imperative that this constitutional onus, which requires the State to make quality education accessible to all, should be genuinely implemented. And one avenue through which this guarantee may be achieved is by making tertiary educational institutions closer to our people.

This bill which seeks to establish a Polytechnic University of the Philippines branch campus in Caloocan City-North is a step towards that direction. It aims not only to address the increasing number of out-of-school children and youth in the region but also operates to fulfill a high constitutional demand. Thus, the immediate consideration and approval of this proposed bill is earnestly sought and requested.



HON. DALE "ALONG" R. MALAPITAN

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A BRANCH OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN CALOOCAN CITY-NORTH, TO BE KNOWN AS THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP)-CALOOCAN CITY-NORTH BRANCH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "*PUP-Caloocan City-North Branch Act*".

SEC. 2. There is hereby established a branch of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Caloocan City-North to be known as the PUP-Caloocan City-North Branch.

SEC. 3. The PUP-Caloocan City-North Branch shall offer graduate, undergraduate and short-term technical-vocational courses within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly to meet the needs of the city and the National Capital Region.

The PUP-Caloocan City-North Branch is also mandated to undertake research and extension services, and to provide progressive leadership in these areas, including the offering of graduate degrees under the PUP Open University System.

SEC. 4. The PUP-Caloocan City-North Branch shall be headed by Branch Administrator who shall render full-time service and who shall be appointed/designated by the Board of Regents (BOR) upon the recommendation of the search committee and the President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the BOR.

SEC. 5. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PUP. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the PUP-Caloocan City-North Branch shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,