



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7058

Introduced by **HON. CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ**
Lone District, Aklan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to fast-track the transfer of relevant and appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas particularly in the enhancement and development of technology-based livelihood enterprises in the countryside in order to bridge the gap between the highly-urbanized cities and provinces by strengthening the provincial science and technology centers in the country.

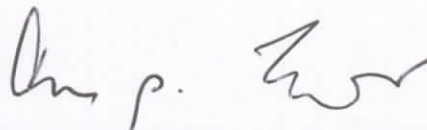
The need to spur the country's global competitiveness, the Department of Science and Technology has been attuned in formulating and adopting a comprehensive National Science and Technology Plan to promote, assist and undertake appropriate scientific and technological research and development in areas identified as vital to the country's development. Through this bill, the Provincial Science and Technology Centers of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) which are the principal instruments of technology transfer and development of technology-based enterprises of the government in the rural areas are upgraded.

True to its advocacy, the DOST is exploring all avenues to reach out to the people through the "*science for the people*" approach to address the basic services to the people in the rural areas in the grassroots level.

As a paragon, in our home Province of Aklan, it is a haven to consider as there are a lot of investment potential in the province. Sectors and factors that could drive Aklan's growth are anchored on its vast natural resources wherein apt scientific and technological

research could be undertaken. Aklan is definitely heading in the right direction and undoubtedly has the potential to become one of the country's major business hubs in the near term. The speedy passage of this piece of legislation will accelerate the progress in the provinces like Aklan to be at par with the highly-urbanized cities in the country. Other provinces will follow suit as feasibly spirited if this DOST's NST plan will be implemented.

In view of the foregoing considerations, immediate approval of this measure is sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hon. Carlito S. Marquez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON. CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ



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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AMENDING REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 6959, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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
"Provincial Science and Technology Centers Act of 2018."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy and duty of the State to fast-track the transfer of relevant and appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas particularly in the enhancement and development of technology-based livelihood enterprises in the countryside.

Pursuant to this policy, the Provincial Science and Technology Centers of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) which are the principal instruments of technology transfer and development of technology-based enterprises of the government in the rural areas are upgraded through this Act.

SEC. 3. Provincial Science and Technology Centers (PSTCs).
— The Provincial Science and Technology Centers (PSTCs) established in all regions were created by virtue of Republic Act No. 6959 shall but not limited to other functions, as determined by the DOST Secretary or by law:

- a.) Identify the needs and opportunities in science and technology (S&T) in the provinces;
- b.) Implement DOST programs and projects on technology promotion and transfer, S&T human resource development, S&T promotion and information dissemination, delivery of technical and consultancy services, and such other areas of concern that will benefit the people in the provinces;
- c.) Develop institutional linkages with provincial offices of other departments, local government units, academe and non-governmental offices for the effective implementation of S&T programs in the province.

SEC. 4. Provincial S&T Directors. - The present PSTC heads with designation of Provincial Science and Technology Officer and position title of Senior Research Specialist, with salary grade of nineteen (SG 19) shall be upgraded to the rank of Provincial Science and Technology Directors in each province under the DOST with a salary grade of twenty-seven (SG-27).

Further, Provided, That the Provincial Science and Technology Director shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Formulate the provincial S&T plan, programs, and projects designed to promote science and culture among the people in the province, consistent with and supportive to the regional and national development S&T plans; consistent with and supportive to the regional and national development S&T Plans;
- (b) Implement and monitor the technology promotion, transfer and commercialization of projects of the DOST in the provinces;
- (c) Promote the adoption of the appropriate technologies by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to improve operational efficiency and increase productivity to harness the results of scientific researchers and innovations to produce new and competitive products;
- (d) Disseminate S&T related information and R&D results through the conduct of trainings, symposia and/or other similar fora;
- (e) Maintain effective liaison with the public and private academic institutions and other government agencies engaged in scientific and technological research, education, and training;
- (f) Coordinate with local government units (LGUs) and academic institutions for the promotion of scholarship programs aimed to attract the science-oriented students to pursue basic and

applied sciences in order to broaden the S&T human resource in the province;

- (g) Coordinate with the public and private organizations in the implementation of human resource and institutional development programs in the province;
- (h) Represent DOST in the inter-agency meetings, conferences, and other coordinative activities in the province;
- (i) Responsible for the overall supervision and fiscal management of services and operations of the PSTC;
- (j) Ensure that the quality management system is properly implemented and maintained in accordance with ISO quality management standards in all aspects of operations of the PSTC;
- (k) Enter into lawful contract, memorandum of agreement and other instruments including the right to sue and be sued; and
- (l) Perform other related functions as may be assigned by higher authorities.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Provincial S&T Director.*

—The DOST in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall formulate the necessary qualification standards and eligibility requirements commensurate to the upgraded position of the Provincial Science and Technology Director at salary grade twenty-seven (SG 27). The current head of the PSTC holding the position for more than twenty (20) years, shall automatically be included in the selection for Provincial Science and Technology Director position: Provided, That the incumbent has met and complied with all the requirements.

SEC. 6. *Remuneration and other Benefits of the Provincial Director.* The remuneration of the Provincial Science and Technology Director shall be equivalent to that of the same salary grade twenty-seven (27) in the government service and shall be entitled to reimbursable representation and transportation allowance commensurate to his office and other benefits as prescribed by law.

SEC. 7. *Staff of the Provincial Science and Technology Center.* Aside from the PSTC Director, PSTCs shall have at least ten (10) plantilla staff. The DOST shall determine the level of these positions, provided that prescribed qualifications shall be in accordance with existing Civil Service laws and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Use of Funds.* All fees and charges collected as a result of S&T services rendered by the PSTCs is not limited only to metrological work, testing and calibration services shall be used by the PSTCs in the enhancement of PSTCs capabilities, development of human resource and in the maintenance of their equipment and facilities.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DOST under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The DOST, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,