

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 323



Introduced by Hon. **ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

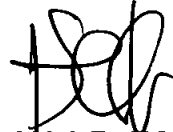
Pursuant to Republic Act No. 7796, it is the declared policy of the State to provide relevant, accessible, high quality and efficient technical education and skills development in support of the development of high quality Filipino middle-level manpower responsive to and in accordance with Philippine development goals and priorities. Further, the State shall encourage active participation of various concerned sectors, particularly private enterprises, being direct participants in and immediate beneficiaries of a trained and skilled workforce, in providing technical education and skills development opportunities.

In realizing this policy, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) was created and mandated to integrate, coordinate and monitor skills development programs; restructure efforts to promote and develop middle-level manpower; approve skills standards and tests; develop an accreditation system for institutions involved in middle-level manpower development; fund programs and projects for technical education and skills development; and assist trainers training programs.

To carry out the said mandate, TESDA training centers were established in different localities and provinces. This has abetted provinces in preventing curtailment of employment opportunities as it increases the standards of laborers' skills necessary in the professional and economic development. However, there are some provinces that are not yet endowed with provincial TESDA training centers. These provinces include the Province of Dinagat Islands. The creation of TESDA center in the Province of Dinagat Islands will certainly advance its agricultural sector through accessible, affordable, and quality training, will curb unemployment rate, and will also respond to the increasing number of interested students and out-of-school youth in the province. Therefore, expanding the coverage of TESDA programs in the geographically-challenged province of Dinagat Islands is underniably apt.

In line with the preceding, this bill proposes the establishment of a Provincial TESDA Training and Assessment Center in the Province of Dinagat Islands. This will certainly help us move closer to shared prosperity as it will achieve an increase of manpower development and will assure quality-assured and inclusive technical education and skills development in the province and in the country as a whole.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is fervently called for.



ALAN B. ECLEO
Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBJO PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. –This Act shall be known as the “Dinagat Provincial TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act”.

SEC. 2. Establishment. – There is hereby established a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Provincial Training and Assessment Center in the Municipality of Libjo, Province of Dinagat Islands, under the supervision of the TESDA, to be known as the Dinagat Provincial TESDA Training and Assessment Centers. The Center shall be established in strategic location in the Municipality of Libjo, Province of Dinagat Islands, pursuant to the purposes of this Act and to the mutual agreement between the TESDA and the concerned local government unit.

SEC. 3. General Mandate. – The Dinagat Provincial TESDA Training and Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall primarily provide relevant and quality technical-vocational education and training (TVET), including practical short-term specialty courses and one (1) year to three (3) year TESDA-registered technical-vocational skills training programs and certificate courses, to out-of-school youths, high school students and graduates, unemployed and underemployed adults, workers in the informal sector, persons with disabilities and ethnic indigenous people, and residents from low-income families in the Municipality of Libjo and adjacent municipalities in the Province of Dinagat Islands.

The Center shall play a pivotal role in helping the local residents become productive, self-reliant and to develop into competitive middle- to high-level skilled labor force so as to hasten the social and economic development of Dinagat Islands, as well as meet the needs of both local and international labor markets. The Center shall consider, in the design of relevant TVET programs to be offered therein, the preferred skills categories based on identified development targets to propel the province to becoming a skilled human resource and economic productivity hub.

The Center shall also serve as TESDA-accredited Assessment Centers for acquired competencies in technical-vocational skills in the Province of Dinagat Islands.

The Center, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the TESDA, shall offer relevant teachers' training assistance and curriculum design to the secondary schools providing the technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the K to 12 Program of the DepEd in the Municipality of Libjo and neighboring localities in the Province of Dinagat Islands.

SEC. 4. Curricular Offerings/Training Programs. – The Center, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), locally and internationally-based business industry partners, and other relevant agencies, shall offer diverse short-term certificate courses and modular trainings in relevant technical-vocational skills and trade specialization to comply with employment standards in preferred and emerging market-driven labor opportunities. The Center shall spearhead training programs in new skills to respond to market trends towards attaining a robust inclusive economy in the host sites and in the adjacent localities and communities in the Province of Dinagat.

The Centers may establish research and technology hubs, technology development farms, mobile training programs, and satellite or extension training centers in priority areas throughout the Municipality of Libjo and neighboring localities in the Province of Dinagat to serve the manpower needs of the area and strengthen the linkages among the industry, the academe, and the Center.

The Center shall offer the following TESDA-registered technical-vocational training programs with competencies assessment leading to National Certification Levels I-III to increase the livelihood assets and competitive productivity of the Municipality of Libjo, and the neighboring localities in the Province of Dinagat:

- (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steel works, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and

operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;

- (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related training and skills development in such areas as farming-fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovation, mechanized farm and fishing tools and equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and innovation, and relevant farmers' and fisher folk's continuing training for increased productivity and entrepreneurship;
- (c) Social communication skills development, language proficiency courses in English and other languages for business process outsourcing (call center) employment and overseas job placement;
- (d) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale entrepreneurship (including practical skills education in crafts and arts), workmanship and designing (such as fabric, woodworks, jewelry, and metal works), high-speed sewing, dressmaking, and tailoring, agriculture and farm technology, horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking (including baking), beauty culture (such as cosmetology, hair and nail styling) and health and wellness training;
- (e) Basic business literacy training in financial management and marketing, practical accountancy, bookkeeping and office procedures, business processes and application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, including online home-based business operation and use of social media business marketing;
- (f) Technical-vocational occupation and trade skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and other relevant practical skills courses;
- (g) Computer literacy and information technology (IT)-related skills, digital technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design and advertising;

- (h) Seminars in personality development, career counseling and job placement, and work ethics and values; and
- (i) Other preferred priority skills and trade trainings that may be utilized by the people of the Province of Dinagat Islands for practical livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurial activities.

SEC. 5. *Compliance with TESDA Requirements.* – The provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the Center established herein shall become operationally effective only upon the determination and declaration of the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and certificate of compliance that the Center has satisfactorily complied with the minimum requirements for quality standards prescribed by TESDA governing the following competency assessment: (a) standard procedures and guidelines (SPGs) for the establishment and operation of a TESDA-accredited provincial training and competency assessment center; (b) operational sustainability of the Center established herein, such as licensed faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment, training, and laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and sustainable funding source for the budgetary requirement of the Center herein established; (c) assurance that the training programs offered are fully aligned with the minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-vocational skills technology and the needs of host locality and the adjacent communities within the service area of the Center; (d) program alignment and benchmarking in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) framework and the PQF for TVET; and (e) compliance with other TESDA conditionality and standards in establishing a TESDA-accredited training assessment center, as may be necessary.

SEC. 6. *Administration.* – The Center shall be headed by a Technical-Vocational Administrator under the supervision of the TESDA. The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall hold the appropriate position title and rank under existing TESDA staffing pattern, and who shall be appointed by the TESDA Director-General in accordance with civil service rules and regulations and the qualification requirements of the TESDA.

The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall render full-time services and shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the Dinagat Provincial TESDA Training and Assessment Center.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The Director-General of the TESDA shall include in the Authority's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DA,

Department of Budget and Management (DBM), DILG, DOST, NEDA, the concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host localities, and the provincial government shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall thereby remain in force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved,