

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2960



Introduced by Rep. LORETO B. ACHARON

AN
ACT CREATING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)
DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS TO BE KNOWN AS THE
TESDA GENERAL SANTOS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the creation of a district office of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in the City of General Santos.

At present, TESDA SarGen (Saranggani and General Santos City) as one of the provincial offices of TESDA in Region 12, caters to the needs of technical vocational institutions (TVI) and stakeholders in the Province of Saranggani and the City of General Santos, thus the name "SarGen" to describe the area of service coverage.

The creation of the TESDA provincial office in the Province of Saranggani with General Santos City by virtue of Section 15 of RA 7796 or the TESDA Act of 1994 is an innovative administrative arrangement aimed to directly link the national government with both local governments in skills development programs and projects. However, such arrangement is no longer plausible under present day needs of stakeholders.

To elucidate, out of the fifty (50) TVIs regulated by TESDA SarGen, forty-four (44) of these are located in the City of General Santos.

Twenty-two (22) out of the twenty-six (26) TESDA Accredited Assessment Centers supervised by this provincial office are also located in the City of General Santos.

The General Santos National School of Arts and Trades, the only TESDA administered school in Region 12, and the TESDA Training Center GSC, two (2) major TESDA Technology Institutions (TTI) are located in the City of General Santos as well.

As per record and experience, close to eighty-five (85) percent of the total accomplishments of the provincial TESDA office in terms of enrollees, graduates, assessed and certified come from Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in the City.

Thus, it has become incumbent upon this representation to propose for the separation of the district office from the Provincial Office two (2) so that the TVET needs of the province are not overlooked and underprioritized in favor of the city's needs.

On hindsight, the City of General Santos has been classified as a highly urbanized city (HUC) since September 5, 1988, and has no territorial, juridical, political, and administrative ties with the Provinces of South Cotabato or Sarangani.

This political independence is remarkably defined in Section 103 of Republic Act No. 5412, as amended, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of General Santos; Section 3 paragraph 4 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 51 or the Act Providing for the Elective or Appointive Positions in Various Local Governments and for Other Purposes; Sections 165 to 168, Title Three, Chapter I of Batas Pambansa Bilang 337 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1983 and Section 452-c, Title Three, Chapter I of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

It has to be emphasized that the establishment of a TESDA district office in General Santos City is the more area-based, demand-driven, logical, and practical administrative and regulative approach to efficiently respond to the needs of TVET stakeholders in the city.

On the other hand, TESDA provincial personnel can become more strategically positioned to concentrate on the full and total development of TVET Institutions and Technical Training Institutions in Sarangani as both local governments in collaboration with TESDA strive to create more avenues for human resource development in their respective localities.

That said and in view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



LORETO B. ACHARON

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2960

Introduced by Rep. LORETO B. ACHARON

AN
ACT CREATING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE TESDA GENERAL SANTOS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. A regular district office of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is hereby created in the City of General Santos, to be known as the “TESDA General Santos City District Office”.

SEC. 2. The Secretary General of TESDA shall immediately include in the Authority’s program the operationalization of a regular TESDA District Office, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the existing provincial office. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operations of the regular TESDA district office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. The Secretary General of TESDA shall issue such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette, or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.