

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7072



Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Founded in 1907, the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) is a premiere comprehensive university with banner programs in agricultural science and technology and allied fields. The University's sustained commitment to service and excellence is reflected in the quality of instruction it offers and in the viable culture of research for development it continuously nurtures.

The Commission of Higher Education (CHED) identifies CLSU as a university demonstrating excellent performance in the areas of instruction, research and publication, extension and linkages, and institutional qualifications hence declaring it as a Center of Excellence (COE) in agriculture, agricultural engineering, biology, fisheries, teacher education and veterinary medicine.

CLSU's membership to several prestigious international organizations of higher education institutions like the ASEAN University Network (AUN), ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS), Association of Universities in Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), University Mobility for Asia and the Pacific (UMAP), and Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) as well as its inclusion in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021: Asia, earn the University a global foothold which comes with a challenge to constantly upgrade its processes to meet international standards and to maintain its responsiveness amidst the evolving landscape of higher education in a global perspective.

Over the years, CLSU continues to implement research programs of high impact and significance to the agriculture sector which is dubbed as the country's backbone. The CLSU - Tuklas Lunas Development Center (TLDC) is named by the DOST Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) as a leading center in developing medicinal solutions through drug discovery using mushrooms. The CLSU Nanotechnology R and D Program and Facility is the first nanotechnology program with the state-of-the-art facility in the country that focuses on agri-fishery. The Indoor Vertical Farming System for Year-Round Production of High Value Crops in the Lowland Tropics is a cutting edge technology that uses a controlled environment to

revolutionize vertical agriculture. The CLSU received funding support from the Department of Agriculture to establish the Precision and Digital Agriculture Center (PreDiC) and the Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (CenTrAD), the country's first and only center to handle transboundary animal diseases such as African swine fever and avian flu, among others by developing technologies and tools for accurate disease diagnosis and prevention, hence protecting the animal industry and the health of the local economy.

For the last three years, the collective efforts of CLSU researchers and the University's strong collaborations with its partner institutions yielded a conservative estimate of P952 million worth of funding support for the implementation of cutting-edge research and development projects. The unwavering trust of the partner agencies help translate the institution's vision and mission into reality, thus propelling CLSU to subscribe to an even greater organizational commitment for the people it serves. From 2018-2020, the target of CLSU to generate and disseminate knowledge and technology were translated into fruitful outcomes: 467 research completed, 234 knowledge products generated, 37 IPR applied, 1 technology patented, 104 techno-demo sites established, 36,107 people trained, 56,433 clients provided with technical advisory and consultancy services, and 516 linkages established.

The commitment of CLSU to contribute to the betterment of society remains steadfast. A well-defined and sustainable allocation of resources for research and development projects will put CLSU to be in a better position to fulfill its noble mandates. A sustainable and stable financial funding ensures the sustainability of each of the centers proposed herewith.

This bill was filed in the 18th Congress by Rep. Micaela S. Violago. The same was approved by the House on 3rd Reading on May 24, 2022 and was transmitted and received by the Senate on May 24, 2022. However, due to lack of material time, the same was not passed into law. The present proponent acknowledges the wisdom and hard work of his predecessor.

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


JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

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AN ACT

**DESIGNATING THE CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE
SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AS THE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL ZONE OF CENTRAL
LUZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4067, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO
CONVERT THE CENTRAL LUZON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE INTO
THE CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY AND AUTHORIZING THE
APPROPRIATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS THEREFOR"**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization, and to science and technology education, training, and services, as provided for under Article XIV, Section 10 of the Constitution.

To this end, the Central Luzon State University (CLSU), located in the Science City of Muñoz, Province of Nueva Ecija, shall continue to deliver excellent service in instruction research and publication, extension services, and local and international linkages, and strive to implement more research programs of high impact to the agricultural sector.

SECTION 2. *Establishment of Regional Centers.* – The CLSU is hereby designated as the Research and Development Regional Zone of Central Luzon. As such, the following existing research centers of the CLSU are hereby declared as Regional Centers of Central Luzon:

A. Regional Center for Advancement of Mushroom Research and Development (RCAMRD) – The Regional Center for the Advancement of Mushroom Research and Development shall be dedicated exclusively to advanced mushroom research and development and shall be handled by academic professionals with advanced degrees in

biology who are specializing in mushroom science and biotechnology. The RCAMRD shall focus on basic and applied research on the different aspects of mushroom biology and biotechnology and shall strive to develop practical and innovative technologies and empower communities for sustainable development and global competitiveness. It shall have the following objectives:

1. Encourage community-based participation in the development of the rural-based mushroom industry; and
2. Provide a more vital linkage between the rural-based industry and the academe while utilizing indigenous resources and practical technologies.

The RCAMRD shall continue to generate practical and innovative technologies such as the following:

1. Zero rice waste technology for mushroom production (utilization of rice straw-based substrate formulations for mushroom production);
2. Biotechnological production of Schizophyllan using *Schizophyllum commune*;
3. Indoor cultivation technology for paddy straw mushroom; and
4. The adaptability of exotic mushrooms under Philippine conditions.

B. Regional Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Resource Center –

The CLSU Biotechnology and Analytical Laboratory, hereinafter referred to as the Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Research Center (MBBRC), shall be the CLSU's key laboratory covering a wide range of primary, applied, and developmental research projects for agricultural and selected non-agricultural concerns based on university, regional, and national research priorities. The MBBRC shall provide hands-on training using state-of-art equipment to hone the knowledge and skills of students on biotechnology trends, and to allow faculty and researchers to conduct molecular studies, apply analytical skills, and share the results of such studies in order to advance biotechnology and its practical applications to modern-day living. It shall likewise provide training on mushroom production.

As the center of excellence in Biology, the MBBRC shall support the Biology Department of the CLSU. It shall have the following objectives:

1. Provide access to state-of-the-art scientific expertise and equipment that are too costly for individual scientists and other researchers to have in the laboratories;
2. Facilitate and provide opportunities for educating students and other clientele on modern biotechnology techniques; and

3. Develop biotechnology protocols and products that will cater to the needs of the academe, research, and industry.

C. Regional Center for Nanotechnology in Agri-fishery (RCNA) – The RCNA shall play an essential and crucial role in pursuing nanotechnology Research and Development (R&D) in the country. It shall have the following objectives and goals:

1. Lead research undertakings in the region, aimed at discovering more nanotechnology applications towards attaining sustainable development;
2. Champion nanotechnology R&D in cooperation with government institutions in the region in terms of collaborative research, innovations, shared facility, and capacity building;
3. Serve as the lynchpin that shall efficiently link instruction, research, extension, and production endeavors and maximize their beneficial outcomes for various stakeholders, including policymakers and program implementors; and
4. Serve as a common ground to all stakeholders to collectively respond to the challenges of promoting the use of nanotechnology for the advancement in the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the Province of Nueva Ecija, in particular, the Central Luzon region and the whole country in general.

The RCNA shall undertake the following activities:

1. Conduct research and development to generate innovative applications and products through nanotechnology in support of regional development goals;
2. Undertake extension programs to widen the dissemination and use of nanotechnology in both the private and public sectors; and
3. Involve students, faculty, and researchers in nanotechnology studies and projects in order to create a pool of nanotechnology research experts.

D. Regional Center for Institute for Climate Change and Environmental Management (ICCEM) – The ICCEM shall be a dynamic and world class institution that shall provide quality education, research, training, and extension services on the causality and consequences of global climate change, the management of resulting environmental conditions, and the methods and strategies that may be adopted to mitigate and reverse such conditions towards the protection of natural resources that support the needs of the population, and the maintenance of a healthy and sustainable environment:

- a. *Climate Change Center* – shall provide environmental education and training regarding climate change science, impacts, and adaptation and mitigation strategies;

- b. *Green Technology Center* – shall provide research, extension, and training activities in Central Luzon on green technologies, such as Phytoremediation and Botanical Pesticides Technology using indigenous plants;
- c. *Monitoring and Training Center for Hazards and Disaster Assessment and Geospatial, Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Studies (MOCHAGERS)* – shall monitor environmental hazards, disasters, and the impact of climate change on various natural and agricultural resources and other ecosystems. In addition, it shall conduct geospatial, photogrammetry, and remote sensing studies in various natural and agricultural resources and all other ecosystems, as well as training and extension activities and projects for disaster preparedness, prevention, and management; and
- d. *Environmental Educational Technology Center* – shall develop, produce, and distribute information, education, and communication materials on biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction management, climate change, climate change adaptation, phytoremediation, botanical pesticides, remote sensing or lidar technology, and environmental management such as pamphlets, brochures, leaflets, posters, digital posters, handbooks, podcast, and audio-visual presentations.

These centers of the ICCEM shall have the following objectives:

- 1. Assist in the development of empowered, resilient, and sustainable communities;
- 2. Help build resistance to climate change threats using knowledge, tools, technologies, and environmentally friendly and ethical resources for ecological sustainability;
- 3. Develop partnerships with all sectors of the society at the local, national, international levels to address climate change and enhance environmental management;
- 4. Conduct research on climate change, biodiversity, green technology (phytoremediation and botanical pesticides, and others), remote sensing studies on environmental issues, disaster risk reduction, management and climate change impacts, pollution prevention, and other environmental concerns;
- 5. Conduct training activities on climate change science, impacts, and local adaptation plan, disaster preparedness, biodiversity conservation, environmental issues, environmental management, pollution prevention, and other environmental concerns;
- 6. Increase public awareness of environmental issues through information dissemination and the provision of extension services, as well as establish

learning centers and museums on biodiversity, climate change, and green technology for public education and awareness;

7. Spearhead activities on environmental management and conservation in Central Luzon; and
8. Develop, improve and package proper and appropriate technologies or management schemes to conserve the biodiversity of all ecosystems in the region.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provision not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 4067 entitled “An Act to Convert the Central Luzon Agricultural College into the Central Luzon State University and Authorizing the Appropriation of Additional Funds Therefor”, as amended, and all other laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,