



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7085



Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

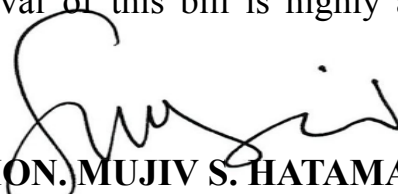
Section 1, Article XIV (Education) of the 1987 Constitution provides that *“The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.”*

Consistent with the mandate of the Constitution, this bill seeks to establish a state college in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, to be known as Basilan Agriculture and Fisheries College.

The state college will provide the necessary facility to enhance the desire of the people of Basilan for better education and develop the talents and skills of the youth in the province in the field of arts and sciences, teacher education, agriculture, aquaculture, engineering and technology, food technology, nutrition, as well as in vocational and other technical courses.

For most Filipino parents, education is a very important legacy that they can give to their children. Establishing a state college in Basilan will give the students a wider latitude for learning at the tertiary level. Moreover, it will enable these students to finish their studies in an institution that is accessible and will afford them the opportunity of improving their status in life.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.



HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Lone District of Basilan



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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “*BASILAN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COLLEGE*,” AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. ***Basilan Agriculture and Fisheries College.*** – There is hereby established in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, a state college to be known as the “*Basilan Agriculture and Fisheries College*,” hereinafter referred to as the College. The College shall primarily provide technical and professional training in sciences, arts, teacher education, agriculture, engineering and technology, fisheries, food technology, nutrition, as well as short-term vocational courses. It shall likewise promote research, advanced studies and academic leadership in the stated areas of specialization.

The College shall exercise the powers specified in this Act, other special laws, and the general powers set forth in Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the “*Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines*.” The

administration of the College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be exercised exclusively by a Board of Trustees.

SEC. 2. ***Board of Trustees.*** – The governing body of the College shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of eleven (11) members consisting of:

- a) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, as chairperson;
- b) President of the College, as vice-chairperson;
- c) Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture in the Senate;
- d) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education in the House of Representatives;
- e) Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- f) Minister of Basic, Higher and Technical Education of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao;
- g) President of the alumni association;
- h) President of the faculty association;
- i) Chairperson of the supreme student council; and
- j) Two (2) prominent citizens of Isabela City or of the Province of Basilan; as members.

The two prominent citizens shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President of the College from at least five (5) nominees

who have distinguished themselves in their respective professions or chosen field of specialization. Of the first two (2) appointed prominent citizens, the Board shall designate one to serve for three (3) years and the other for six (6) years.

The members of the Board shall be citizens and residents of the Philippines. Except for the president of the College and the president of the faculty association, no person in the employ of the College or of other educational institutions in any capacity whatsoever shall be eligible for membership in the Board.

The members shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in their attendance in meetings of the Board or in connection with their official duties.

The Board shall hold its regular meeting every two (2) months and may hold as many special meetings as may be necessary. Majority of the members holding office at the time a meeting is called shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the chairperson, the president of the College shall act as presiding officer during board meetings.

SEC. 3. ***Powers of the Board.*** – The Board shall exercise the following powers:

a) Receive and appropriate, to the ends specified by law, such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the College;

b) Provide for the establishment of an Institute of General Education Studies, a School of Agriculture and Aquatic Sciences, a School of Forestry and Environmental Science, a School of Engineering and Technology, a School of Education, a School of Business, a School of Veterinary Medicine, a School of Food Technology and Nutrition, an Indigenous Arts and Crafts Institute, and other schools and departments as the Board may deem necessary;

c) Confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation from the College;

d) Authorize the president of the College to award certificates for completion of non-degree programs;

e) Prescribe for the governance of the College such rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the College;

f) Receive in trust legacies, gifts, donations for real and personal property of all kinds, and administer the same for the benefit of the College or of a school, institute or department thereof, or for aid to any student or students in accordance with directions and instructions of the donor or, in default thereof, in such manner as the Board may, in its discretion determine;

g) Appoint the president, vice-presidents, deans, directors, the secretary of the College, the registrar, the heads of the departments, professors, instructors, lecturers and other officials and employees of the College; fix their annual compensation subject to pertinent compensation laws; prescribe their

hours of service, duties and other conditions as it may deem proper; grant them, in its discretion, leave of absence in accordance with rules that it may promulgate; and, remove them for cause after proper notice and hearing pursuant to civil service laws governing disciplinary action;

h) Approve the curricula and rules of discipline drawn up by the Academic Council as hereinafter provided;

i) Fix and collect minimal school fees and charges, subject to the limitations as provided by Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the *“Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act,”* as the Board may deem proper to impose. Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the College, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized bank, and any and all interest that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the College. Any provision of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, incomes generated by the College may, at the discretion of the Board, be disbursed for the professional growth and development, health, welfare and other similar benefits of the faculty members and personnel; for the acquisition, construction, maintenance and repair of urgently needed instructional and auxiliary facilities, equipment, building and other infrastructures; and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under this Act.

j) Provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships, grants-in-aid and part-time job opportunities to deserving students, especially the underprivileged;

k) Establish chairs in the schools mentioned in paragraph (b) of this Section and to sustain their endowment, as well as to provide for other faculty awards as the programs of action may make necessary; and

l) Establish branches or extensions within the Province of Basilan where there are no existing educational institutions offering similar programs or courses.

SEC. 4. ***President.*** – The administration of the College shall be vested in the president, who shall be appointed by the Board for a term of six (6) years. The president of the College may be reappointed for another term.

The salary of the president shall be fixed by the Board, subject to pertinent compensation laws.

The powers and duties of the president, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of a state college or university.

In case of permanent vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity to perform the functions and duties of the office, the vice president for academic affairs shall act as president of the College until a new president shall have been appointed and qualified.

The president of the College shall be assisted by two (2) vice presidents; one vice-president for academic affairs and one vice-president for planning and finance, who shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the president of the College.

SEC. 5. ***Faculty; Appointment of Deans.*** – The body of professors and instructors of each school shall constitute its faculty and as head of each faculty, there shall be a dean to be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the president of the College.

In the appointment of professors or instructors, no religious opinion or affiliation shall be made a matter of inquiry or examination. No faculty member or employee in the College shall inculcate sectarian tenets or attempt, either directly or indirectly, under penalty of dismissal by the Board, to influence students and employees for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 6. ***Secretary.*** – There shall be a secretary of the College to be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the president of the College. The secretary of the college shall also serve as the secretary of the Board. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the records of the College and the Board, and shall be compensated according to pertinent compensation laws.

SEC. 7. ***Academic Council.*** – There shall be an Academic Council consisting of the president of the College and all the members of the faculty holding the rank of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor. The

Academic Council alone shall have the power to prescribe the curriculum and rules of discipline, subject to the approval of the Board. It shall also fix the requirements for admission as well as graduation. The Academic Council has the authority to recommend the conferment of titles to deserving individuals. Through the president of the College or its duly authorized committee, the Academic Council shall have disciplinary power over the students of the College within the limits prescribed by the rules of discipline approved by the Board.

SEC. 8. ***Admission.*** – No student shall be denied admission in the College by reason of sex, ethnic consideration, religious belief or political affiliation.

SEC. 9. ***Campus Site.*** – The College shall have an area of not less than fifty hectares for its exclusive use as campus site for its academic and instructional programs, research and development activities and experimental and laboratory facilities.

The Board shall forthwith recommend a suitable site in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan for this purpose. The Office of the President of the Philippines shall effect the immediate acquisition of the area by way of proclamation or by instituting expropriation proceedings, if necessary.

SEC. 10. ***Development Plan.*** – Within six (6) months following its creation, the Board shall complete a seven-year development plan for the College which shall serve as the basis for its policy decisions.

SEC. 11. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount of Five billion pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) from the National Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law.

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,