

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7323



Introduced by Representative Ron P. Salo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, "[t]he 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."

In accordance with the abovementioned constitutional mandate, this bill seeks to strengthen the Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PhilSCA) by declaring it as the National Aviation Academy of the Philippines, befitting its status as the premier and only government professional institution which offers programs purely in aeronautics and aviation-related education.

The birth of PhilSCA dates back when it was initially established in 1967 as Basa Air Base Community College by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) pursuant to AFP Regulations G. 168-342 as approved by the Department of National Defense on April 1, 1968. On January 26, 1977, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr. signed Presidential Decree No. 1078 converting Basa Air Base Community College to Philippine Air Force College of Aeronautics with its main campus in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City along with three (3) newly-created campuses, namely: Sangley Air Base, Fernando Air Base, and Mactan Air Base. On June 3, 1992, the Philippine Air Force College of Aeronautics was renamed to Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PhilSCA) by virtue of Republic Act No. 7605. In 1994, its Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the creation of its own flying school which will train students qualified to become private and commercial pilots. At present, the aforementioned laws form the legal basis of the existence of PhilSCA. Hence, the consolidation of these two (2) laws into a single statute is necessary to introduce improvements and strengthen the College, making it responsive and adaptable to the growing demands of today's highly globalized society.

PhilSCA has then improved its course structure and curricular offerings, recognizing the individuals from all academic disciplines who have contributed to the development and growth of aviation. For more than five (5) decades of its existence, PhilSCA has been the top performing school and the home of topnotchers in Aeronautical Engineering. In fact, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has awarded the College as the "Number 1 Aeronautical School in the Country" due to its high percentage of board passers and for consistently producing Topnotchers in the PRC Aeronautical Engineering Board Examination for a decade. In 2021, the College

has produced forty-three (43) new Aeronautical Engineers with five (5) examinees landing in the top ten (10). Worth mentioning as well are its graduates in the programs of BS Air Transportation, Aircraft Maintenance and Aviation Electronics Technology who are consistent performers in the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) rating examinations.

It has also been the school of choice for students who want their careers in the aviation industry to take off as it produced thousands of world-class professionals and competent manpower which include private and commercial pilots, aeronautical engineers, aircraft maintenance technicians and specialists, flight attendants, personnel and officials of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) and other branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), government officers, professors and other highly qualified individuals whose mission is to support the Philippines and the global aviation industry.

In its bid to provide global learning for students as well as to connect and collaborate with other schools worldwide, the College through the PhilSCA International and Local Linkages Office (PILLO) has established partnerships and collaborations with different local and international organizations like the International Association of Aviation and Aerospace Education (ALICANTO), the Global School Alliance (GSA), the PAF-AETDC Multi-Sectoral Advisory Board, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), and local and international airline companies and establishments among others.

A cooperation agreement was also entered into between the College and the Universities in Malaysia, and Canada. This engagement aims to develop academic and educational cooperation and mutual understanding. In addition, PhilSCA received ISO Certification 9001-2015 to ensure its services and operations comply with international standards. Just recently, the CAAP has granted PhilSCA a Five-Year Aviation Training Organization Certificate (ATOC) with certification number 86-06.

Through the years and despite the turbulent times brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the College has undergone a massive facelift with the construction of the state-of-the-art laboratory building and college dormitory, and the renovation of classrooms, guestel, audio-visual room, gymnasium, and offices. This bill will further help PhilSCA achieve its aspirations to be the Philippine's center of excellence in aviation and aeronautics, preparing students to lead, manage, innovate, develop, and operate a safe, reliable, and efficient global aviation system for the 21st Century.

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



RON P. SALO
KABAYAN Party List

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS AS THE
NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION FOR AVIATION, TO BE KNOWN AS
THE NATIONAL AVIATION ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES, 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 “National Aviation Academy of the Philippines Charter”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall promote quality education that is accessible and relevant to the changing needs of the people and society. It shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of aviation education and training through the strengthening of the curricula of the various aviation and other related courses consistent with the standards set by the world’s leading institutions of aviation learning.

SEC. 3. Philippine State College of Aeronautics as the National Aviation Academy of the Philippines. – The Philippine State College of Aeronautics, as the leading higher education institution for aviation studies, is hereby declared as the professional institution for aviation, to be known as the National Aviation Academy of the Philippines (NAAP).

SEC. 4. Mandates of the NAAP. – As the NAAP is committed to develop aviation leaders in the global knowledge economy, it shall:

- (a) Provide world-class academic professional training to young Filipinos in the field of aviation and other related fields and mold them into becoming responsible citizens who are aware of their role in nation-building;
- (b) Produce efficient and well-trained aviation professionals whose technical capacities are comparable to their counterparts in other countries and who can ably respond to the needs of the local and international aviation industry;

- (c) Offer advanced professional studies and specialization for aviation and other related courses primarily for those who serve as faculty of the state and private colleges and universities;
- (d) Strengthen aviation and other related programs through the development and offering of industry-driven programs; spearhead collaboration between the academe and the aviation industry; and lead in the implementation of innovative pedagogies in aviation education;
- (e) Serve as the premier training center in aviation and related fields of specialization by conducting skills training and development, promoting collaboration with various colleges and universities in the country offering aviation programs, and contributing to the dissemination and application of knowledge on aviation and other related fields;
- (f) Intensify innovative professional skills, as well as technological research and development in aviation in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and other attached agencies of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Department of National Defense (DND), and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA);
- (g) Offer ladderized undergraduate and graduate professional programs in aviation and other related fields of study as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives;
- (h) Provide greater access to aviation education to deserving students; and
- (i) Serve as a regional and global aviation hub in cooperation with international agencies in aviation, various networks of the aviation industry, scholarly and professional associations in the Asia Pacific region, and around the world.

SEC. 5. The Academy. – The NAAP shall be composed of both constituent and extension campuses established by its governing board upon the recommendation of its Superintendent.

The constituent campuses of the NAAP shall include the Villamor Air Base Campus in Pasay City as main campus, the Basa Air Base Campus in Floridablanca, Pampanga, the Fernando Air Base (FAB) Campus in Lipa, Batangas, the Brigadier General Benito N. Ebuen Air Base (BGBNEAB) Campus in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, and those that may be created in the future.

The extension campuses of the NAAP shall include the Basa-Palmayo Campus in Floridablanca, Pampanga, the FAB Campus in Cuenca, Batangas, the BGBNEAB Campus in Medellin, Cebu, and those that may be created in the future.

SEC. 6. Academic Freedom. – The NAAP shall enjoy academic freedom as provided for in Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997,” and paragraph 2, section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

SEC. 7. Academic Offerings. – The NAAP shall develop and design academic offerings, and confer degrees as appropriate, in accordance with the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) and with that of CAAP Civil Aviation Regulations Part 3, and undergraduate and graduate programs in the fields of aviation and other related fields.

Faculty and graduates of the NAAP may be appointed by the CHED and CAAP to serve as technical evaluators upon acquiring the necessary qualifications and certifications needed in the field.

In order to meet the needs of the national government, as well as local and international aviation industry requirements, the NAAP may add, remove, or revise any undergraduate and graduate degree programs and/or diploma courses according to its capabilities and as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives: *Provided*, That no undergraduate and graduate degree programs shall be offered without the concurrence of the CHED and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).

SEC. 8. Commitment to National Development. – The NAAP shall utilize the expertise of the members of its community and other individuals in relation to the country's goals towards national development in the primary areas of aviation and other related fields for the improvement of the quality of life, growth of the economy, and transformation of the society.

The members of the academy and its community with profound scientific and professional knowledge shall contribute to or take a solicited involvement in the public policy process.

As the National School for Aviation, it shall ensure the following:

- (a) All programs and its total enrolment must be in aviation and other related fields;
- (b) Discontinue the offering of programs not allied with aviation and other related fields;
- (c) Accelerate the faculty development and training program in the fields of aviation and other related fields.

SEC. 9. Democratic Access. – The NAAP shall take affirmative steps in democratizing the admission process to enhance access to its programs and services for disadvantaged students, such as indigenous peoples and poor but deserving students such as valedictorians and salutatorians of public high schools and students from depressed areas.

It shall allocate one (1) slot for admission to its Bachelor of Science in Air Transportation (BSAT) and Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering (BSAeE) in every region recommended by the Regional Development Council: *Provided*, That applicants must pass the basic requirements of admission: *Provided further*, That upon determination that there is no qualified applicant from a certain region, another qualified applicant, irrespective of domicile, shall be considered for such slot.

No student shall be denied admission to the NAAP by reason solely of age, gender, nationality, religious belief, economic status, ethnicity, physical disability, and political opinion or affiliation.

In recognition of the separation of church and State, the NAAP shall guarantee religious freedom and shall not discriminate on the basis of religion.

SEC. 10. Sports, Culture, and the Arts. – The NAAP shall be a globally competitive and culturally sensitive institution. It shall strengthen sports and, culture and the arts as a strategic national resource, and promote its importance to our identity, social well-being, and preserve the cultural heritage of the country.

SEC. 11. Institutional Autonomy. – As the national aviation academy, the NAAP shall be treated with greater flexibility. It shall determine its teaching, training, thrusts, plans, fiscal policies, programs, and standards consistent with its mandates, and according to the national goals and priorities, which shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

SEC. 12. Administration. – The NAAP shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines.” The administration of the NAAP and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent of the NAAP.

There shall be a central administration headed by the NAAP Superintendent, who shall provide leadership and overall strategic direction in the areas of academic excellence, and professional training, infrastructure development, linkages and partnerships, and resource management designed to achieve the vision and mission of the Academy.

The administration of each campus shall be vested in a Campus Director who shall be designated by the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, subject to certain limitations and insofar as delegated by the Superintendent of the NAAP and authorized by the Board.

The administration of each extension campus shall be headed by the Campus Director of the nearest constituent campus.

SEC. 13. The Board of Trustees. – The governing body of the NAAP shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the NAAP Superintendent, respectively, and with the following as members:

- (a) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education of the Philippine Senate;
- (b) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives;
- (c) Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);

- (d) The Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force;
- (e) The Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines;
- (f) President of the federation of faculty associations of the NAAP;
- (g) President of the federation of student councils of the NAAP;
- (h) President of the federation of alumni associations of the NAAP; and
- (i) Three (3) private sector representatives who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, chosen from among a list of at least five (5) qualified persons as recommended by the search committee constituted by the Superintendent of the NAAP, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and other members of the Board, based on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board: *Provided*, That one of the private sector representatives must have a distinctive contribution in the field of aviation, reputable practice of the profession, and advancement of aviation education in the country.

The terms of office in the Board of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the President of the federation of student councils, and the President of the federation of alumni associations shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

For the purpose of this section, the associations of faculty, alumni, and student councils in each Constituent Campus shall organize themselves to form their respective federations, which in turn shall elect their federation officials: *Provided*, That the alumni representative to the Board must not be a faculty or an employee of the NAAP, regardless of status or rank, at the time of representation.

The three (3) private sector representatives shall serve for a term of two (2) years and may be reappointed for only one term.

SEC. 14. Compensation. – Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred in the attendance of meetings of the Board and other official business authorized by the Board, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 15. Meetings; Quorum. – The Board shall convene regularly. The Chairperson of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting: *Provided* further, That the notice shall contain a brief description of the agenda items to be discussed.

A majority of all members of the Board holding office at the time the meeting is called shall constitute a quorum for Board meetings: *Provided*, That the Chairperson of the CHED who is the chairperson of the Board or the Superintendent of the NAAP is among those present in the meeting. In the absence of the Chairperson of the CHED, a CHED Commissioner duly designated by the Chairperson of the CHED as

representative to the meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That during the meeting, the Superintendent of the NAAP, as Co-chairperson, shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That the provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson to the Board, in which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force, the Director General of the NEDA, and the Director General of the CAAP shall not be able to attend a Board meeting, they may designate in writing their representatives to the meeting: *Provided*, That the NEDA shall be represented by their respective Director for trade concerns, and CAAP shall be represented by the Assistant Director General. The designees shall be entitled to voice and vote: *Provided further*, That the members of the Board may exercise their right to vote through remote communication and in *absentia*, as provided for in Section 49 of Republic Act No. 11232.

SEC. 16. Powers and Duties of the Board. – The administration of the NAAP and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board. In addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of Directors of a Corporation under Section 35 of Republic Act No. 11232 the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- (a) Define in general terms the academic thrusts and institutional goals of the NAAP and adopt broad policy guidelines to ensure their effective implementation;
- (b) Preserve the integrity of the NAAP;
- (c) Approve the institution, merger, or abolition of academic programs, upon recommendation of the Academic Council through the Superintendent of the NAAP;
- (d) Create, organize, reorganize, merge or abolish constituent campuses, extension campuses, institutes, and other academic and administrative units of the NAAP;
- (e) Approve the curricula, institutional programs, and rules on student discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils as herein provided;
- (f) Approve the rules on student discipline recommended by the Academic Council through the Superintendent of the NAAP, with the Board retaining the power to review and pass final judgment on student disciplinary cases;
- (g) Approve the graduation of students and grant of honors, as recommended by the Academic Council through the Superintendent;
- (h) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of the NAAP, faculty members and other officials and employees in accordance with the compensation and position classification system; to draw up a position classification and compensation plan for its faculty and staff, subject to the review and approval of

the Department of Budget and Management (DBM); to fix and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members and other employees in accordance with the compensation and classification system; to determine the hours of service of faculty and staff, and such other terms and conditions of employment as it may deem proper; to grant leave of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any other provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause as provided by law after due investigation and proper hearing;

- (i) Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with the students concerned.

Such fees and charges, including government support and other income generated by the NAAP, shall constitute its special trust funds, and shall be deposited in an any authorized government depository bank. All interest that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of NAAP.

Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated and collected by the NAAP or by its subsidiaries, as well as from operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the NAAP and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction and professional training, or other programs or projects of the NAAP; for the professional growth and development, health, welfare, and other benefits of the students, faculty members and administrative personnel; for the acquisition, construction maintenance and repair of needed instructional and auxiliary facilities, equipment, buildings and other infrastructure; development of economic assets, and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under its approved program of expenditures.

If the NAAP, for reasons beyond its control, shall not be able to pursue any project or purpose for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, it may exercise fiscal autonomy subject to the approval of the Board and may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives of the NAAP, including utilization for the professional growth, and other benefits of the students, faculty members and administrative personnel: *Provided*, That trust funds created by law for a specific purpose, other than special trust funds constituted herein shall not be reprogrammed to other expenditures;

- (j) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act";
- (k) Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided by law for the support of the NAAP, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the NAAP;
- (l) Set policies on admission and graduation of students;
- (m) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning, statesmanship, or eminence in the field of aviation, engineering, science, technology, education,

public service or in any field of specialization within the academic competency of the NAAP, upon recommendation of a committee created by the Superintendent of the NAAP: *Provided*, That such degrees shall not be conferred in consideration of any payment, gift, or other valuable consideration;

- (n) Establish professional training centers to promote the development of the NAAP;
- (o) Authorize its faculty and staff to travel abroad to study, deliver papers, attend conferences, establish linkages and collaboration that will provide financial or economic benefits, subject to existing rules and regulations;
- (p) Provide fellowships, scholarships and grants, including athletic grants and to award the same to faculty, staff and students having special evidence of merit, especially those who are poor and deserving individuals;
- (q) Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building in the aviation and aviation-related fields and in the appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public or private, local or foreign, and appoint experts or specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting, or exchange professors, and scholars, as the case may be;
- (r) Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units, as well as public, private, local, or foreign institutions and agencies for the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the NAAP;
- (s) Enter into joint ventures or public-private partnerships (PPPs) with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the NAAP, and for the professional growth and development, health, welfare, and other benefits of the students, faculty members, and administrative personnel;
- (t) Receive in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and administer and dispose the same, when necessary, for the benefit of the NAAP and subject to the limitations, discretions, and instructions of the donor, if any;
- (u) Extend the term of the Superintendent of the NAAP beyond the age of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That the Superintendent's performance has been rated by the Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has been decided upon by the search committee;
- (v) Elect the Superintendent of the NAAP following a process of democratic consultation with the academy's community based on standards and guidelines set by the Board;
- (w) Extend, with their consent, the tenure of faculty members of the NAAP beyond the compulsory retirement age, any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, on recommendation of the units and upon endorsement of the Superintendent of the NAAP, whenever their services are especially needed:

Provided, however, that no extension of tenure shall be made beyond the age of seventy (70);

- (x) Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including the necessary supplies, materials and equipment;
- (y) Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the Superintendent or other officials of the NAAP, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the NAAP;
- (z) Prescribe rules for its own government and discipline of the faculty and other personnel and to enact for the governance of the NAAP such general policies, rules and regulations not contrary to law, as are consistent with its purposes;
- (aa) Where most advantageous to the NAAP, privatize the management of non-academic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance, and such other similar activities;
- (bb) Develop mechanisms for the efficient adoption of PPPs in the areas of research, instruction, professional training, and in the acquisition of facilities and structures of the NAAP; and
- (cc) Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and functions of the NAAP.

SEC. 17. The Superintendent of the NAAP. – The Superintendent of the NAAP shall be its chief academic officer, head of the academy, faculty, and chief executive officer. As such, the Superintendent shall exercise the powers specifically provided for in this Act, those determined by the Board, those which usually pertain to the office of the Superintendent of similar educational institutions, and those which are related or necessary to its functions.

The Superintendent of the NAAP, who shall be elected by the Board upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee, shall render full-time service.

The Superintendent of the NAAP shall have a term of four (4) years and can be reappointed for another term of four (4) years.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the Superintendent by reason of death, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Superintendent to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the NAAP, pending the appointment of a new Superintendent. In no case shall the search and appointment of the next Superintendent be longer than ninety (90) calendar days from the date when the vacancy occurs. The newly appointed Superintendent shall serve a full term: *Provided*, That the designated officer-in-charge shall not be allowed to join as candidate in the search process.

The salary of the Superintendent of the NAAP shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466 or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and by such other laws amendatory thereto which may hereinafter be enacted.

SEC. 18. The Secretary of the NAAP and of the Board. – There shall be a Secretary of the NAAP designated by the Board, who shall also be the Secretary of the Board and the Academy, and who shall keep such records of the NAAP.

SEC. 19. The Academic Council. – There shall be an academic council consisting of the Superintendent of the NAAP as chairperson, the Assistant Superintendent for Academic Affairs as vice chairperson, and all faculty members of the NAAP holding the rank of assistant professor and higher as members.

SEC. 20. Powers of the Academic Council. – The academic council shall be the highest academic body of the NAAP and shall exercise the following powers:

- (a) Review and propose academic policies and standards, curricular offerings, instructional evaluation and assessment systems;
- (b) Recommend to the Board, through the Superintendent of the NAAP, the award of all honorary degrees;
- (c) Fix the requirements for admission to any college or unit, graduation, and the grant of honors, subject to the prescribed academy policies and guidelines;
- (d) Recommend to the Board, through the Superintendent of the NAAP, matters pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the NAAP, such as the preparation of the academic calendar, student life, standards of conduct and discipline, living conditions, organizations, sports, culture and the arts, and participation in extracurricular activities;
- (e) Prescribe the academic programs including their institution, revision, abolition and merger, subject to the approval of the Board;
- (f) Recommend to the Board, through the Superintendent of the NAAP, the graduation of students and the grant of honors; and
- (g) Adopt internal rules of procedure, not contrary to law, and consistent with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 21. Administrative Council. – There shall be created in the NAAP an administrative council consisting of the Superintendent of the NAAP as Chairperson, and the Assistant Superintendents, deans, directors, and other officials of equal rank, as members.

SEC. 22. Duty of the Administrative Council. – The Administrative Council so formed and constituted shall review and recommend, in accordance with the direction of the Board, appropriate policies governing the administration, management, and development planning of the NAAP.

SEC. 23. Skills Training Council. – There shall be created in the NAAP a Skills Training Council, which shall be composed of the NAAP Superintendent, as Chairperson; the Dean of the Institute of Engineering and Technology as vice chairperson; and a Senior Faculty with the rank of Associate Professor and having a license issued by the CAAP and the PRC, as member. The council shall act as an advisory body to the Board on matters relating to the setting of skills training directions, planning, fund sourcing and allocation, and the formulation and review of policies and guidelines pertaining to the skills Training Program of the NAAP.

SEC. 24. The Faculty. – The teaching staff of each institute shall constitute its faculty, and each faculty shall be presided over by a Dean, who shall be designated by the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent of the NAAP.

No political belief, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the NAAP: *Provided*, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided, further*, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 25. Technical Faculty, Employees and Consultants. – To ensure quality, relevant, and up-to-date education, the NAAP shall also maintain a pool of local and international part-time faculty members teaching technical subjects, and employees and consultants performing technical work. These technical faculty, employees and consultants shall possess special knowledge, skills and know-how on the various fields of aviation. They shall enjoy just and commensurate compensation comparable to the compensation of their counterparts in the private sector, as may be deemed appropriate by the Board. They shall also have the privilege to arrange their specific work schedules.

SEC. 26. Student Affairs. – There shall be established in the NAAP the following student councils: for every college or institute, a student council; for every campus, a campus student council; and for the entire NAAP, a federation of all student councils. The student council shall serve as the primary student body that shall advance the interests, welfare, and aspirations of the students of the NAAP. It shall have the power to adopt internal rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this Act.

Subject to due and comprehensive consultation with the students, there shall be a student publication established in every campus to be funded by student fees. Freedom of expression and autonomy in all matters of editorial and fiscal policy shall be guaranteed especially in the selection of its editors and staff.

SEC. 27. Land Grants and Other Real Properties of the NAAP. – The State shall support the NAAP as the national academy for aviation in the form of a lump sum amount in the annual General Appropriations Act and other financial benefits, and in kind, through land grants and donations and use of other real properties. To carry out the intent of these grants, income derived from the development of all land grants and real properties shall be used to further the ends of the Academy, as may be determined and decided by the Board.

Such parcels of land ceded by law, decree or Presidential issuance to the NAAP are hereby declared to be reserved for the purposes intended. The absolute ownership of the NAAP over these landholdings, including those covered by original and transfer certificates of title in the name of the NAAP and their future derivatives, is hereby confirmed. Where the issuance of proper certificates of title for these landholdings is yet pending, the appropriate government office may expedite the issuance thereof within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That all registration requirements necessary for the issuance of the said titles have been submitted and complied with.

The Board may plan, design, approve and cause the implementation of land leases: *Provided*, that such mechanisms and arrangements shall sustain and protect the environment in accordance with law, and be exclusive of the academic core zone of the campuses of the NAAP: *Provided*, further, That such mechanisms and arrangements shall not conflict with the academic mission of the NAAP.

The Board may allow the use of the income coming from real properties of the NAAP as security for transactions to generate additional revenues when needed for educational purposes.

The Board may approve the implementation of joint ventures: *Provided*, That in the event real properties of the NAAP are involved, only the income derived by the NAAP from the use of the real properties shall be the subject of its participation or obligation in the joint ventures: *Provided*, further, That no joint venture shall result in the alienation of the real properties of the NAAP.

Any plan to generate revenues and other sources from land grants and other real properties entrusted to the NAAP shall be consistent with the academic mission and orientation of the academy as well as protect it from undue influence and control of commercial interests: *Provided*, That such programs, projects or mechanisms shall be approved by the Board subject to a transparent and democratic process of consultation with the constituents of the NAAP: *Provided*, further, That funds generated from such programs, projects or mechanisms shall not be meant to replace, in part or in whole, the annual appropriations provided by the national government to the NAAP.

SEC. 28. Safeguards on Assets Disposition. – The preservation of the value of the assets of the NAAP shall be of primordial consideration.

The sale of any existing real property of the NAAP shall be prohibited: *Provided*, That the Board may alienate real property donated after the effectivity of this Act if the terms of the donation specifically allow it.

SEC. 29. Tax Exemptions. – The provisions of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding:

- (a) All revenues and assets of the NAAP used for educational purposes or in support thereof shall be exempt from all taxes;

- (b) All grants, bequests, endowments, donations and contributions made to and used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes by the NAAP shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended;
- (c) Importation by the NAAP of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical, and cultural books, supplies and materials, aircraft and aircraft tools and equipment duly certified by the Board, including scientific, and educational computer and software equipment, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA); and
- (d) All academic awards shall be exempt from taxes.

SEC. 30. Reportorial Requirements and Auditing of Accounts. – The NAAP shall submit an annual report to Congress containing the financial statements, statement of assets and liabilities, statement of income from tuition fees and other revenue sources. All accounts and disbursements of the NAAP shall be audited by the Commission on Audit.

SEC. 31. Rules of Construction. – No statutory or other issuances shall diminish the powers, rights, privileges, and benefits accorded to the NAAP under this Act, or those enjoyed at present by virtue of other issuances not otherwise modified or repealed under this Act, unless subsequent legislation expressly provides for their repeal, amendment or modification. Any case of doubt in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Charter shall be resolved in favor of the academic freedom and fiscal autonomy of the NAAP.

SEC. 32. Appropriations. – The amount needed to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the NAAP and its other internal funds. Thereafter, the amount necessary to strengthen its capacity as the national aviation academy shall be sourced from the fund allocated to the DND through the PAF, and at least 1% of the income generated by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA), and the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 33. Transitory Provision. – To provide strategic direction and leadership as the NAAP transitions to its pioneer status as the national aviation academy, and to ensure the attainment of its distinctive and purposeful mandate as such, as declared and provided for in this Act, the incumbent Superintendent of the NAAP shall continue to serve as the first Superintendent and shall serve for one full term of four (4) years without prejudice of reappointment.

SEC. 34. Separability Clause. – Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SEC. 35. Repealing Clause. – Presidential Decree No. 1078, Republic Act No. 7605, and all laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 36. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved.