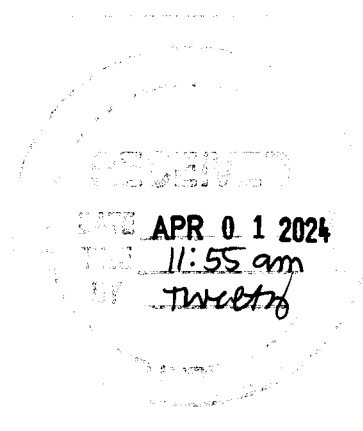


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10237



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to separate the Balas National High School-Lapatan Extension in Barangay Lapatan, Municipality of Labason, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as the Lapatan National High School.

The Municipality of Labason stands out as one of the most economically challenged among the 67 municipalities in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, with a poverty rate of 45.2% as revealed in the 2018 Small Area Estimates by the Philippine Statistics Authority. Amidst such circumstances, education emerges as a beacon of hope, illuminating pathways for individuals to transcend the shackles of poverty and lead their communities towards prosperity.

Within Labason, Barangay Lapatan faces its own set of challenges. A considerable number of elementary graduates are unable to pursue secondary education due to geographical constraints. Presently, there is a glaring absence of both public and private high schools within the Barangay, with the Lapatan extension of Balas National High School being the sole option, albeit with insufficient facilities and resources. This stark reality unjustly deprives residents of their fundamental right to accessible education, hindering their academic advancement and socio-economic opportunities.

The separation and conversion of the Balas National High School - Lapatan Extension into an independent national high school will provide a much-needed boost for the communities where most of its inhabitants are underserved. This is also in line with the State's mandate to establish, maintain, and support an educational system relevant to the needs of the people and society under Article XIV, Sec. 2(1) of the Constitution.

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


ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 16237

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

AN ACT
SEPARATING THE BALAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL-LAPATAN
EXTENSION IN BARANGAY LAPATAN, MUNICIPALITY OF LABASON,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE BALAS NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Balas National High School-Lapatan Extension in Barangay Lapatan, Municipality of Labason, Province of Zamboanga del Norte is hereby separated from the Balas National High School and converted into an independent national high school to be known as Lapatan National High School.

SEC. 2. All personnel, assets, liabilities and records of the Balas National High School-Lapatan Extension are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the Lapatan National High School.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Lapatan National High School, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Balas National High School- Lapatan Extension. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the school shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,