

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

HOUSE BILL NO. 313



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sec. 2 (5), Art. XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to provide skills training for adult citizens. Towards this end, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 7796 in 1994 which created the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) “to provide relevant, accessible, high quality and efficient technical education and skills development.”¹

Sec. 20 of Republic Act No. 7796 directs TESDA to strengthen the network of national, regional and local skills training centers vocational and technical schools, technical institutes, polytechnic colleges, and all other duly accredited public and private dual system educational institutions. Accordingly, TESDA has accredited various technical and vocational institutions (TVI) in Negros Occidental to provide technical vocational education and training (TVET), and authorized several institutions to assess TVET graduates/candidates for national certification.

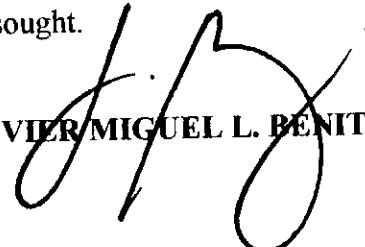
This bill seeks to establish a TESDA training and assessment center in the Municipality of Murcia to widen access to TVET programs in said municipality and neighboring local government units. A TESDA training and assessment center in Murcia will bring TVET programs closer to the people of Murcia, open up new opportunities for gainful employment and livelihood, and contribute to poverty alleviation.

Murcia, with a population of 88,868², has poverty incidence of 21.3 percent in 2018,³ virtually unchanged from 21.6 percent in 2009.⁴ Through TVET programs, Murciahanons will develop new skill sets and enable them to acquire jobs and earn higher income.

This bill also envisions that the Murcia TESDA training and assessment center will offer courses that will enhance digital literacy which will equip Murciahanons with technical and cognitive skills to become competitive in a digital economy and adapt to the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

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

JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ



¹ Sec. 2, Republic Act No. 7796

² 2020 Census of Population and Housing. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

³ 2018 Municipal and City Level Small Area Poverty Estimates. PSA.

⁴ 2009 Municipal and City Level Small Area Poverty Estimates. PSA.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MURCIA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE MURCIA TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Murcia TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act”.

SEC. 2. *Establishment.* – There is hereby established a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training and Assessment Center in Municipality of Murcia, Province of Negros Occidental, under the supervision of the TESDA, to be known as the Murcia TESDA Training and Assessment Center. It shall be established in a highly accessible location in the Municipality of Murcia, Province of Negros Occidental, pursuant to the purposes of this Act and to the mutual agreement between the TESDA and the concerned local government units (LGUs).

SEC. 3. *General Mandate.* – The Murcia TESDA Training and Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall primarily provide technical-vocational education and training (TVET) programs to students and local residents from low-income families and out-of-school youths, including persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, in the Municipality of Murcia and the rest of the localities comprising the Third Congressional District of the Province of Negros Occidental to help them become productive, self-reliant and globally competitive labor assets.

The Center shall offer training programs on relevant skills trade competencies, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship activities needed to deliver the effective employment interventions that will hasten the development of the host area and adjacent localities in the Province of Negros Occidental into human resource and productivity hubs.

The Center shall serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired competencies in TVET programs in the Municipality of Murcia and other municipalities of the Province of Negros Occidental. It shall provide teachers' training and curriculum design

assistance to the secondary schools offering the technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the K to 12 Program.

SEC. 4. Training Programs. – The Center shall offer short-term certificate courses and modular trainings in preferred technical-vocational skills and trades specialization. To this end, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), business-industry partners, and such other relevant agencies and instrumentalities, both local and international, shall provide the necessary assistance to enable the Center to develop skilled manpower to achieve a robust and inclusive economy in the host area and its adjacent localities.

The Center may establish research and technology hubs, technology development farms, satellite or extension training centers, and promote mobile training programs to strengthen linkages among the industry partners, the academe, and the Center geared towards the acquisition of practical livelihood, employable skills, gainful employment, and entrepreneurship in priority areas throughout the Municipality of Murcia and in adjacent areas in the Third District of the Province of Negros Occidental.

The Center shall offer the following TVET programs with competencies assessment leading to National Certification Levels I-III:

- (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;
- (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such areas as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm, fishing tools and equipment operation, agribusiness and agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolks' trainings for increased productivity and entrepreneurship;
- (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts, workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;
- (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management and marketing, practical accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-based business operation, and use of social media business marketing;
- (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing,

The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall enter into agreements with locally-based private and public counterpart agencies or instrumentalities and persons, subject to the approval of the TESDA Director General, for such assistance as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act, and its continued implementation thereafter, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The concerned LGU, in consultation with the TESDA, shall set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support the operation of the Murcia TESDA Training and Assessment Center herein established.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DOST, DA, Department of Budget and Management, DILG, NEDA, concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host locality, prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,