

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

413

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by Representative **JESUS R. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Science Institute as an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Strengthening science and innovation ecosystems across the country is essential for building a future-ready and resilient nation. While technology can be imported, innovation must be cultivated domestically. It requires a multidisciplinary approach, deep investments in research, and the sustained development of scientific and technological talent.

The Philippines urgently needs to scale up support for research and development—not only to increase its output of scientific knowledge and innovation, but more importantly, to translate these into tangible products, services, and technologies that advance national development goals and improve socio-economic resilience amid accelerating environmental and societal challenges.

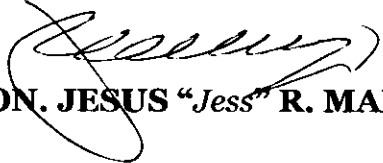
At present, the country lacks a dedicated institution that integrates applied science, STEM education, extension services, and policy development within a unified academic and research setting. The Philippine Science Institute will fill this gap. It will lead and coordinate national R&D efforts, serve as a center of excellence, and complement the existing mandates of DOST and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Modeled after world-renowned institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), the PSI will be the country's flagship research institute—anchored on science-based solutions, innovation-driven strategies, and future-forward leadership.

While the Philippines is home to 112 State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) with 421 satellite campuses, 121 local universities and colleges, 13 government-run institutions, and 1,729 private higher education institutions, the diversity of their mandates and limited resources prevent any single institution from taking on the central role of steering the nation's science and technology agenda. Their capacity to absorb and implement large-scale DOST-led R&D initiatives remains constrained by fragmented focus and thinly spread funding.

Thus, the establishment of the Philippine Science Institute is both timely and necessary—to build a critical mass of scientific expertise, deepen collaboration across disciplines, and drive innovation that directly serves the Filipino people.

In this regard, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. JESUS “Jess” R. MARQUEZ

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE UNDER THE SUPERVISION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** There is hereby established a research-based degree granting
2 institute to be known as the "*Philippine Science Institute (PSI)*", an attached agency of
3 the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).
4

5 **SEC 2. Declaration of Policy.** Sections 10 and 11 of the Philippine Constitution
6 recognizes that Science and technology are essential for national development and
7 progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention,
8 innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and
9 services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and
10 technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and
11 national life. Towards this end, Congress is empowered by the constitution to provide
12 incentives, including tax deductions, to encourage private participation in programs of
13 basic and applied scientific research, and other incentives such as scholarships, grants-
14 in-aid, and others to deserving science students, researchers, scientists, inventors,
15 technologists, and specially gifted citizens.

16 **SEC 3. Objectives.** In implementing the foregoing policy, the State shall pursue
17 the following objectives:

18 (a) Promote research and development in Science, Technology,
19 Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as a tool for national development;

20 (b) Facilitate the creation of a critical mass of Research & Development
21 (R&D) professionals in the country to aid its socio-economic transformation;

22 (c) Establish a Science Institute that will assume a leadership role in
23 tertiary level STEM education specializing in Applied Science Research and
24 Development;

- 1 (d) Offer scholarships to deserving and gifted Filipino scholars with high
2 aptitude for STEM and R&D Careers/ courses;
- 3 (e) Create a pathway for students to earn degrees through STEM R&D;
- 4 (f) Provide for a campus patterned after international science
5 institutions with world-class facilities, environment for research, and sufficient
6 land and space for housing of students faculty and visiting international scientists;
- 7 (g) Establish international collaboration for the holistic development of
8 the students, staff and leaders; and
- 9 (h) Support scholars and teachers' participation in local and
10 international competition, academic symposia, research projects and other
11 scholarly activities, subject to availability of funds and government accounting and
12 audit regulations.

13 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* –**

- 14 (a) Philippine Science Institute – is envisioned as a higher education
15 institute offering scholarships to deserving and qualified Filipino
16 students a pathway to earn undergraduate and postgraduate STEM
17 degrees thru Applied Research;
- 18 (b) Term – refers to the “*term of office*,” with a duration of six (6) years in
19 one term.

20 **SEC. 5. *Overall Coordinating Authority.*** The PSI shall be attached with the
21 Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The PSI Board of Trustees shall be the
22 Governing Board of all campuses of the Institute wherever situated.

23 **SEC. 6. *Board of Trustees.* –** The governance of the PSI is vested in the Board of
24 Trustees herein referred to as the “*Board*.” Its composition shall be exempted from the
25 requirements of R.A. 8292 also known as the Higher Education Modernization Act of
26 1997 given the University's unique character and specialization.

27 The PSI Board shall be composed of the following members:

- 28 (a) Secretary of the DOST as ex-officio Chairman;
- 29 (b) The Chair of the Commission on Higher Education as ex-officio Vice Chair;
- 30 (c) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Science and Technology;
- 31 (d) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Science and Technology;
- 32 (e) The President of the University of the Philippines;
- 33 (f) The Director of the Science Education Institute (SEI);
- 34 (g) The President of the PSI Alumni Association;

1 (h) The President of PSI;

2 (i) Four (4) private sector representatives who have distinguished themselves in
3 their professions or fields of specialization in research and development
4 representing the following industries: 1) Emerging Technologies; 2)
5 Agriculture; 3) Higher Education; and 4) Adult Education

6 The President of the Philippine Science High School National Alumni
7 Association (PSHS-NAA) shall serve as interim representative for the institute's alumni
8 association until a PSI alumni association has been organized, and a president has been
9 duly elected.

10 The private sector representatives shall be appointed by the Chairman subject to
11 the confirmation of the Board.

12 For the first set of appointments from the Private Sector, two (2) of the private
13 sector representatives shall serve for four (4) years, while the other two (2) for two (2)
14 years, thereafter, succeeding appointments shall have a fixed term of four (4) years.

15 The Board shall exercise the following powers:

- 16 (a) Formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of
17 the Institute;
- 18 (b) Formulate policies on the appointment, promotion, retention, removal,
19 renewal, rewards and incentives for administrators, faculty and staff;
- 20 (c) Approve the curricula of courses submitted by the President of the Institute;
- 21 (d) Approve the criteria for the selection and admission of students;
- 22 (e) Approve the grant of scholarship, stipend and such allowances for students;
- 23 (f) Approve the graduation of successful candidates of the Institute and grant
24 of honors;
- 25 (g) Approve the rules on student discipline recommended by School Councils
26 through the President of the Institute with the Board retaining the power to
27 review and pass final judgment on student disciplinary cases;
- 28 (h) Confer honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning,
29 statesmanship, or eminence in STEM Research and Development upon
30 recommendation of the committee created by the President of the Institute,
31 provided, that such degrees shall not be conferred in consideration of any
32 payment, gift or other valuable consideration;
- 33 (i) Approve appointments and contracts entered into by the President of the
34 Institute in connection with the employment of professors, instructors,
35 lecturers and other personnel of the Institute; to fix their compensation and

- 1 other conditions of employment; and remove them for cause after due
2 process;
- 3 (j) Formulate policies and rules of discipline for students, faculty and staff;
- 4 (k) Approve the institution, merger or abolition of academic programs, upon
5 recommendation of the School Council through the President of the
6 Institute;
- 7 (l) Approve the Institute's budget and appropriations recommended by the
8 Institute's President thru the Chancellor to the ends specified by law such
9 sums as may be provided by law for the support of the Institute;
- 10 (m) Receive grants whether cash, land, buildings and improvements thereof;
11 donations, contributions, bequest, gifts, and to formulate policies for the
12 administration thereof;
- 13 (n) Appropriate to the ends specified by law such sums as may be provided by
14 law for the support of the Institute;
- 15 (o) Develop policies for the expansion of enrollment of the Institute;
- 16 (p) Develop policies, criteria, and standards for the establishment of schools or
17 campuses under the Institute;
- 18 (q) Formulate its own rules of procedure, and to prescribe for the
19 administration of the Institute such general rules and regulations, not
20 contrary to law, as are consistent with the purpose of the Institute as defined
21 in this Act;
- 22 (r) Establish criteria for the selection and admission of scholars which shall
23 include among others, the national competitive examination;
- 24 (s) Receive in trust local and foreign legacies, gifts, and donations of real and
25 personal property of all kinds and to administer the same in accordance
26 with the directions and instructions of the donor, and in default thereof, in
27 such manner as the Board of Trustees may in its discretion determine, for
28 the benefit of the Institute or for aid to any of its students;
- 29 (t) Fix and adjust salaries and benefits of faculty members and other
30 employees, provided that salaries and other benefits of the faculty shall be
31 equivalent to those being received by their counterparts in the private
32 sector, as its minimum;
- 33 (u) Extend, with their consent the tenure of faculty members of the Institute
34 beyond the compulsory retirement age, any other provision of law to the
35 country notwithstanding, on recommendation of the units upon
36 endorsement of the President of the Institute, whenever their services are
37 especially needed, provided however, that no extension of tenure shall be
38 made beyond the age of seventy (70); provided however the age limit shall
39 not apply to visiting and/ or eminent professors, lecturers or local faculty

- 1 members or national scientists on account of their exemplary and
2 invaluable contributions to science;
- 3 (v) Fix school fees (if any) and other necessary school charges, as the Board may
4 deem proper to impose. Such fees and charges, including government
5 support and other income generated by the Institute, shall constitute special
6 trust funds and shall be deposited in an authorized government depository
7 bank. Any and all interest that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the
8 same funds for the use of the Institute. In the case of legacies, gifts and
9 donations received in trust, they shall be deposited in accordance with the
10 preferred manner of deposit and other conditions (if any) attached to the
11 donation.
- 12 (w) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all incomes generated
13 by the Institute or by its subsidiaries shall, upon their collection, be
14 retained by the Institute and disbursed at the discretion of the Board for the
15 professional growth and development, health, welfare, and other benefits of
16 the students, faculty members and other personnel; for the acquisition,
17 construction maintenance and repair of urgently needed instructional and
18 auxiliary facilities, equipment, buildings and other infrastructure; and for
19 expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under its approved
20 program of expenditures.
- 21 (x) If the Institute, for reasons beyond its control, shall not be able to pursue
22 any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its
23 approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said
24 fund for any reasonable purpose for which it deems necessary and urgent
25 for the attainment of the objectives of the Institute: Provided, That funds
26 collected from students or donors for a specific purpose shall not be
27 reprogrammed to other expenditures;
- 28 (y) Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided by law for the support
29 of the Institute to the ends specified by law, and all other sums in the
30 manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and
31 functions of the Institute;
- 32 (z) Authorize the construction, maintenance or repair of its buildings,
33 machinery, equipment and other facilities , and the purchase and
34 acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies,
35 materials and equipment;
- 36 (aa) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, to authorize its
37 faculty and staff to travel abroad to pursue fellowship, scholarship or grant;
- 38 (bb) Exercise the general powers set out in the Corporation Code;

- (cc) Delegate any of its powers to the President of the Institute or other officials or officers as it may deem necessary;
- (dd) Prescribe rules for its own government and discipline of the faculty and other personnel and to enact general policies, rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as are consistent with its purposes;
- (ee) Exercise such powers as may be proper and necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.
- (ff) 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;
- (gg) Establish professorial chair awards;
- (hh) Set policies and criteria to rationalize the establishment of science schools or campuses under the Institute, for its evaluation and approval thereof;
- (ii) Prepare strategic plans to enhance the capability of the Institute in developing human resources with emphasis on STEM R&D;
- (jj) Elect the President of the Institute for a single term of six (6) years following a process of democratic consultation with the university community based on standards and guidelines set by the Board. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a president who shall serve a full term. A Chancellor chosen by the Board may act as Officer-in-Charge of the Institute when the search process is in progress. In no case shall the search and election of the next President be longer than ninety (90) calendar days from the date when the vacancy occurs.

SEC. 7. Quorum. A quorum of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a majority of all the members holding office at the time the meeting of the Board is called. The Board shall convene regularly. The chairperson may call a special meeting whenever necessary, provided that members are notified in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, provided further that the notice shall contain a brief description of the agenda items to be discussed.

SEC. 8. The President of the University. The President of the Institute is the chief academic officer, head of faculty and the chief executive officer of the Institute. He/ She shall exercise the powers specifically provided for in this Act, those determined by the Board, those which pertain to the office of the president of the institute, and those which are related or necessary to its functions. The Board shall determine the compensation of the President of the Institute.

The President of the Institute shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve for a single term of six (6) years.

1 **SEC. 9. *The Secretary of the Institute and the Board of Trustees.*** There shall be a
2 Secretary of the Institute appointed by the Board, who shall also be the Secretary of the
3 Board, and who shall keep such records of the Institute as may be designated by the
4 Board.

5 **SEC. 10. *The School Council.*** There shall be in each constituent campus, a School
6 Council consisting of the Chancellor as Chairperson, and all faculty members in the
7 constituent campuses holding the rank of assistant professor and higher as members.

8 **SEC. 11. *Powers of the School Council.*** The School Council shall be the highest
9 academic body of each constituent campus and shall exercise the following powers:

- 10 (a) Fix the requirements for admission to any college or unit, graduation, and the
11 grant of honors subject to the minimum system-wide requirements;
- 12 (b) Prescribe the academic programs including their institution, revision, abolition
13 and merger, subject to the approval of the Board;
- 14 (c) Recommend to the Board the graduation of students and the grant of honors;
- 15 (d) Exercise disciplinary power over the students, through the Chancellors or their
16 appropriate committees, subject to review by the President of the Institute
17 according to the limits prescribed by system-wide rules on student discipline
18 approved by the Board;
- 19 (e) Undertake the periodic review of academic courses, programs, standards,
20 thrust and policies; and
- 21 (f) Adopt internal rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this Act.

22 **SEC. 12. *The Chancellor of the Constituent Campus.*** The Administration of the
23 each constituent campus is vested in the Chancellor insofar as authorized by the Board
24 and the President of the Institute. The Chancellor of the constituent campus shall be
25 elected by the Board upon nomination of the President of the Institute, following a
26 process of consultation with the constituents/ community of the constituent campus
27 based on standards and guidelines set by the Board. The Chancellor shall report to the
28 President of the Institute, and shall perform the duties and functions elsewhere stated in
29 this Act, and all the usual, necessary and related functions of the Office of the Chancellor
30 subject to the policies and rules prescribed by the Board. The Board shall determine the
31 term and compensation of the Chancellor. If a Chancellor fails to complete his/her term,
32 the President of the Institute shall appoint an acting Chancellor while a search process is
33 in progress. In no case shall the search and election of the next Chancellor be longer than
34 sixty (60) calendar days from the date when the vacancy occurs.

1 **SEC. 13. *The Faculty.*** The teaching staff of each college shall constitute its faculty.
2 The College Faculty shall be presided over by a Dean. The Dean shall be elected by the
3 Board upon nomination of the President of the Institute and recommendation of the
4 Chancellor of the constituent campus, following a process of consultation with the
5 constituents of the college based on standards and guidelines set by the Board.

6 If a Dean fails to complete his/her term, the Chancellor shall appoint an acting
7 Dean while a search process is in progress. In no case shall the search and election of the
8 next Dean be longer than sixty (60) calendar days from the date when the vacancy occurs.

9 **SEC. 14. *Appointment Requisites and Practice of Profession.*** Faculty members,
10 as well as research, extension and professional staff (REPS) of the Institute, shall be
11 exempt as such from any civil service examination or regulation as a requisite to
12 appointment. The provisions of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding, licensing
13 requirements for professional regulatory boards shall not affect appointments to faculty
14 positions. In the appointment of faculty members, no religious test shall be applied, nor
15 shall the religious or political opinions or affiliations of the faculty members of the
16 Institute be made subject of examination or inquiry.

17 **SEC. 15. *Student Affairs.*** There shall be established in the Institute the following
18 student councils, a college or institute student council; and for every constituent campus,
19 a student council; and for the Institute as a whole, a general assembly of all student
20 councils.

21 The student council shall be composed of elected students of a definite academic
22 unit of the Institute. Each member of the student council shall serve for a term of one (1)
23 year, without prejudice to reelection.

24 The student council shall serve as the primary student body that shall advance the
25 interests, welfare and aspirations of the students of the Institute. It shall have the power
26 to adopt internal rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this Act.

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

31 **SEC. 16. *Land Grants and Other Real Properties of the Institute.***

32 (a) The State shall support the Institute as a special institution promoting research
33 and development in science and technology in the form of lump sum amount,

1 through general appropriations and other financial benefits, and in kind,
2 through land grants and donations and use of other real properties. To carry
3 out the intent of these grants, income derived from the development of all land
4 grants and real properties shall be used to further the ends of the Institute, as
5 may be decided by the board;

6 (b) Such parcels of land ceded by law, decree or presidential issuance to the
7 Institute are hereby declared to be reversed for the purposes intended. The
8 absolute ownership of the Institute over these landholdings, including those
9 covered by original and transfer certificates of title in the name of "*The*
10 *Philippine Science Institute*" and their future derivatives, is hereby confirmed.
11 Where the issuance of proper certificates of title is yet pending for these
12 landholdings, the appropriate government office shall expedite the issuance
13 thereof within six months from the date of effectivity of this Act: Provided, That
14 all registration requirements necessary for the issuance of the said titles have
15 been submitted and complied with;

16 (c) The Board may plan, design, approve and/or cause the implementation of land
17 leases: Provided, That such mechanisms and arrangements shall sustain and
18 protect the environment in accordance with law, and be exclusive of the
19 academic core zone of the campuses of the Institute: Provided, further, That
20 such mechanisms and arrangements shall not conflict with the academic
21 mission of the Institute;

22 (d) The Board may allow the use of the income coming from real properties of the
23 Institute as security for transactions to generate additional revenues when
24 needed for educational purposes;

25 (e) The Board may approve the implementation of joint ventures: Provided, That
26 in the event real properties of the Institute are involved, only the income
27 derived by the Institute from the use of the real properties shall be the subject
28 of its participation or obligation in the joint ventures: Provided, further, That
29 no joint venture shall result in the alienation of the real properties of the
30 Institute; and

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

1 **SEC. 17. Safeguards on Assets Disposition.** The preservation of the value of the
2 assets of the Institute shall be of primordial consideration.

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

6 Notwithstanding the provision of this act or any other law to the contrary, the lease
7 of more than five (5) years of the assets the Institute and any transaction referred to in
8 Section 16 shall be subject to applicable laws, and rules and guidelines set by the Board.

9 **SEC. 18. Management of Funds.** The Board shall create an independent trust
10 committee to be composed of the President of the Institute, as Chairperson, two (2)
11 representatives from government financial regulators, and one qualified (1)
12 representative from the private sector specializing in investment. The members shall be
13 entitled to a reasonable per diem as the Board may specify. The independent trust
14 committee shall provide the Board with direction on appropriate investments with the
15 view to preserving the value of funds while allowing the Institute to earn a reasonable
16 return thereon.

17 **SEC. 19. Tax Exemptions.** The provisions of any general or special law to the
18 contrary notwithstanding:

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

21 (b) Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds shall be exempt
22 from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions
23 from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the
24 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended: Provided, That the
25 allowable deductions shall be equivalent to 150 percent to the value of such
26 donation. Valuation of assistance other than money shall be based on the
27 acquisition cost of the property. Such valuation shall take into consideration
28 the depreciated value of property in case said property has been used;

29 (c) Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical,
30 historical and cultural books, supplies and materials duly certified by the
31 Board, including scientific and educational computer and software equipment,
32 shall be exempt from customs duties;

33 (d) The Institute shall pay 0% value-added tax for all transactions subject to this
34 tax; and

35 (e) All academic awards shall be exempt from taxes.

(f) Visiting foreign scientific lecturers or resident scientists faculty members shall be exempt from tax to include their personal belongings

SEC. 20. *Special Privileges in the Appointment of Foreign/ Visiting Professors or Lecturers.* The institute shall be given special privilege for the employment of foreign nationals, thru expedited application of Alien Employment Certificate (AEP), Work Permits (WP), Special Non-Immigrant Visa under E.O. 226 as amended by R.A. 8756 (for spouses and dependents), and Pre-Arranged Employment Visa.

SEC. 21. *Coverage of Magna Carta Benefits for S&T Workers.* All personnel of the institute are "*S & T Personnel*" as defined in section 5 of R.A. 8439 as amended by R.A. 11312, and as such shall be entitled to full benefits and incentives under the Magna Carta For Scientists and Engineers.

SEC. 22. *Exemption from Age Restrictions For Faculty Members.* Faculty members shall be exempted from age restrictions per section 129 of the Omnibus Rules on Appointment and Other Human Resources and related issuances.

SEC. 23. *Exemption from Salary Standardization Law.* The institute shall be exempt from the rules and requirements of the budget and management and the office of the compensation and position classification, and the salary standardization law.

SEC. 24. *Reportorial Requirements and Auditing of Accounts.* The Institute shall submit an annual report to Congress containing the financial statements, statement of assets and liabilities, actual projected income from tuition fees and other revenue sources, contracts and investments entered into pursuant to Section 16 (c) hereof and programs of expenditure. All accounts and disbursements of the Institute shall be audited by the Commission on Audit.

SEC 24. *Rules of Construction.* No statutory or other issuances shall diminish the powers, rights, privileges and benefits accorded to the Institute under this Act or enjoyed at present by it under 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 Institute.

SEC 25. *Appropriations.* The amount needed to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the lump sum appropriation of the current fiscal year and other internal funds of the Institute. Thereafter, such lump sum representing the responsibility of the national government for the continued growth, operation

1 maintenance of the Institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
2 (GAA).

3 The Institute may use unexpended balances in any appropriation for purposes that
4 the Board determines.

5 **SEC 26. *Separability Clause.*** Should any provision herein be declared
6 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

7 **SEC 27. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, proclamation, rules and regulation
8 or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
9 or modified accordingly.

10 **SEC 28. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
11 in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,