



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 465



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES IN THE
ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Graduation ceremonies are some of the most memorable milestones in a student’s life. Beyond recognizing academic achievement, these events are also opportunities to showcase our national pride and cultural identity.

In the Philippines, where traditions and heritage vary from region to region, we have a unique chance to reflect this diversity in how we celebrate academic success. One simple yet meaningful way to do this is by incorporating Filipino textiles into graduation gowns and other academic garments. By doing so, we not only honor our rich cultural roots but also help support local weaving communities and promote sustainable, homegrown industries.

This measure aims to strengthen cultural appreciation among students, promote local industries, and proudly wear our identity as Filipinos. This measure proposes that all State and Local Universities and Colleges (SUCs and LUCs) adopt the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles, those made from local materials and inspired by traditional designs, for their academic regalia.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a cursive 'R' and a final flourish.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Academic
2 Regalia Act."

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and
4 nationalism among the youth, whose academic preparation for adulthood and responsible
5 citizenship includes value formation on love of country and pride in the uniqueness of their
6 cultural heritage. In this regard, opportunities for displaying these values shall be encouraged
7 by the school system not only as part of values development, but to preserve Philippine culture
8 and certain local traditions, and create avenues, such as the wearing of academic regalia that is
9 based on Filipino ethnic and traditional design to promote the production of neo-ethnic
10 Philippine textiles, boost the national effort to develop culture-based industries, and in the
11 process create jobs in local communities.

12 Pursuant thereto, the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia of all
13 state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) is therefore
14 prescribed.

15 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this act:

- 1 (a) Academic regalia refers to the official garb worn by university officials, faculty,
2 graduates, and awardees during graduation, commencement exercises, and other
3 academic functions; and
- 4 (b) Neo-ethnic Philippine textiles refer to textiles made from or containing natural or
5 indigenous materials, sourced and produced in the Philippines using updated,
6 relevant, environmentally friendly, scientific, and technological approaches and
7 innovations, while integrating and retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons,
8 motifs, and techniques.

9 **SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council.*** – There is hereby
10 created a Philippine Academic Regalia Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council", which
11 shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education
12 (CHED) and the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of
13 Science and Technology (DOST-PTRI), respectively. The Council shall have the following as
14 members:

- 15 (a) Representative from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA);
16 (b) Representative from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
17 (c) Representative from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges
18 (PASUC);
19 (d) Representative from the University of the Philippines (UP) System;
20 (e) Representative from the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU);
21 and
22 (f) Representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

23 **SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Council.*** – The Council shall have the following
24 powers and functions:

- 25 (a) Formulate the National Academic Regalia Policy;
26 (b) Review, standardize, and adopt the academic regalia for graduates, administrators,
27 faculty, and awardees of SUCs and LUCs;
28 (c) Ensure sustainability, quality control, and availability of yarns, dyes, and loom
29 parts;
30 (d) Propose ways to incorporate neo-ethnic textiles in the academic regalia;
31 (e) Prepare and publish a handbook containing information on the academic regalia and
32 its proper use, protection, trade, and management; and
33 (f) Protect the intellectual property rights as regards design silhouettes, textile pattern,
34 color, and textile specification for the academic regalia.

1 **SEC. 6. *Mandatory Coordination with the Council.*** – Pursuant to the provisions of
2 this Act, all SUCs and LUCs shall be required to coordinate with the Council to ensure that
3 neo-ethnic Philippine textiles shall be prescribed in their academic regalia, specifically in the
4 hood, robe or gown worn by students in important occasions, such as hooding ceremony or
5 graduation from either a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree, as well as the faculty and
6 other members of the academic community, and may be incorporated in the headgear
7 (mortarboard cap or tarn), mortarboard tassel, stole, and cord, among others.

8 **SEC. 7. *Support for Local Weavers and Cultural Communities.*** – The Council shall
9 ensure that local weaving communities, including cooperatives and Indigenous Peoples'
10 groups, are prioritized as suppliers and partners in the production of academic regalia textiles.
11 Technical assistance, training, and access to funding shall be facilitated through CHED, DOST-
12 PTRI, and DTI to enhance their production capacity and ensure quality compliance.

13 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
14 effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in consultation with the DOST-PTRI, NCCA, UP,
15 PASUC, ALCU, DTI, and other relevant stakeholders, issue the rules and regulations for the
16 effective implementation of this Act.

17 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of
18 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is
20 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain
21 in full force and effect.

22 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent
23 with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

24 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
25 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,