

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1758**



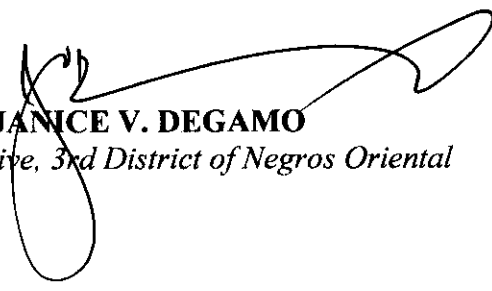
Introduced by **Hon. Janice V. Degamo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Third District of Negros Oriental is home to thousands of skilled yet unemployed or underemployed individuals, especially in rural and upland barangays. While the demand for welders, butchers, mechanics, bakers, farmers, and IT service providers continues to grow both locally and abroad, many residents lack access to affordable and certified training.

This bill seeks to establish community-based training centers offering free TESDA-accredited skills programs across the district. These centers will not only uplift individuals and families but also support the local economy by improving the quality and quantity of the labor force. By providing free certification and job assistance, the measure ensures that the people of the Third District have a fair shot at employment, self-sufficiency, and dignity.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



JANICE V. DEGAMO

Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental

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House Bill No. **1758**

Introduced by **Hon. JANICE V. DEGAMO**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY-BASED SKILLS AND TRADES TRAINING
CENTERS IN THE THIRD DISTRICT OF NEGROS ORIENTAL,
PROVIDING FREE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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 "Negros Skills and Trades Training Act."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote inclusive and sustainable employment by equipping its citizens with the technical and vocational skills needed in the modern labor market. The State shall prioritize access to free, localized training programs in underserved and rural communities.

Section 3. *Creation of Community-Based Skills and Trades Training Centers.* There shall be established at least one (1) Community-Based Skills and Trades Training Center in each of the following localities in the Third District of Negros Oriental:

- (a) Bayawan City;
- (b) Bacong;
- (c) Siaton.

Each Community-Based Skills and Trades Training Center shall serve as a TESDA-accredited facility that offers free technical and vocational courses aligned with local industry demands and overseas job markets.

Section 4. *Training Programs Offered.* The Community-Based Skills and Trades Training Center shall offer, but not be limited to, the following priority programs:

- (a) Agricultural machinery operation and repair;
- (b) Industrial welding and pipe fitting;
- (c) Information and communication technology;
- (d) Automotive servicing;
- (e) Baking and pastry making;
- (f) Slaughtering operations.

Section 5. *Training Benefits and Support.* All enrolled trainees shall receive the following:

- (a) Free tuition, tools, and materials;
- (b) Daily transportation or meal allowance, subject to the availability of funds;
- (c) TESDA National Certification (NC I or NC II) upon passing assessment;
- (d) Job placement assistance.

Section 6. *Implementation and Coordination.* The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and local government units (LGUs), shall implement the provisions of this Act. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental and partner NGOs may also assist in the operation, outreach, and sustainability of the training centers.

Section 7. *Appropriations.* The amount of One Hundred and Fifty Million Pesos (₱150,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act, to be sourced from the current budget of TESDA, or from other available sources, as determined by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Thereafter, the annual operation and maintenance costs of the training centers shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the TESDA budget.

Section 8. *Monitoring and Reporting.* TESDA shall submit an annual report to the House of Representatives through the Committee on Higher and Technical Education on the performance of the Community-Based Skills and Trade Training Centers, including enrollment data, certification results, job placements, and community impact.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, TESDA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,