

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2704



Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1stDistrict, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the Philippines begins to build its own renewable energy (RE) ecosystem, in response to the spiraling cost and fast depletion of fossil fuels and the probable catastrophic effects of climate change, there is an urgent need to establish an institution which could train a pool of talents with sufficient expertise in the various facets of RE development and operations. The idea of an Asian training hub to be located in the Philippines for the upskilling and reskilling of technicians and scientists is worth exploring with foreign governments and private firms. This could position our country to become the 'nerve center' of talents and skills enforcement for the emerging RE industry in the entire region.

In the field of wind energy alone, the government of Denmark as well as Danish training service providers had a meeting of minds with our own Department of Energy and the Wind Energy Developers Association of the Philippines (WEDAP) on the proposal to establish a regional training center for the wind industry here in our country. It has been noted that the Philippines has the advantage of having an English-speaking workforce compared with those found in other countries in Asia. Further, it has been observed that since the Philippines is one of the first movers into the wind industry, then the potential for our being a first mover in the training space would also be there.

It may be said that our country's comparative advantage when it comes to wind power similarly applies, to a varying extent, to the other aspects of renewable energy—such as biomass, solar, geothermal, ocean energy, and hydropower.

This bill aims to establish a renewable energy industry training center in the Municipality of Bangui in the Province of Ilocos Norte. This local government unit boasts of having the largest wind power generators (i.e., the Bangui Windmill Farm) in the entire ASEAN Region. This makes Bangui an excellent candidate to become the situs of a regional training hub for the renewable energy industry.

In view of all the foregoing considerations, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS

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House Bill No. **2704**

Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1st District, Ilocos Norte

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY TRAINING
CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANGUI IN THE PROVINCE OF
ILOCOS NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known and referred to as the “*Renewable Energy Industry Training Center Act*”.

SEC. 2. Renewable Energy Industry Training Center. - There is hereby established the Renewable Energy Industry Training Center (hereinafter referred to as the “Center”), to be located in the Municipality of Bangui in the Province of Ilocos Norte, which shall be attached to the Department of Energy for policy and program coordination.

SEC. 3. Purposes and Objectives. – The Center shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a. Develop and upgrade the capabilities and skills of technicians and scientists, enable competencies and certifications for current and future technologies for the renewable energy industry;
- b. Formulate a comprehensive policy for the research, development and utilization of renewable energy;
- c. Conduct studies and develop methods on more accessible use of renewable energy;
- d. Implement the government program on the allocation, distribution and sale of renewable energy; and
- e. Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Board of Trustees.* – The powers and functions of the Center shall be vested in a Board of Trustees (the “Board”) consisting of a Chairperson and four (4) members. The Chairperson and two (2) members, who shall be appointed by the President of Philippines, shall serve for a term of four (4) years, while the remaining two (2) members shall be *ex-officio* members, who shall be composed of the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Science and Technology, or their representatives. They shall receive compensation as may be fixed by the President of the Philippines which shall not exceed those given to Commissioners of Constitutional bodies. No person shall be appointed Chairperson or members of the board unless he or she is a natural born Filipino citizen, at least thirty (30) years of age, of good moral character and must have recognized competence in the fields of science and technology.

SEC. 5. *Power and Duties of the Board of Trustees.* – The Board of Trustees shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Prepare and issue rules and regulations it considers necessary for the effective discharge of its functions;
- b. Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the Center in any manner it may determine, in its discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the Center;
- c. Receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the Center, subject to limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any.

Such donations shall be exempt from the donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended: *Provided*, That such donations shall not be disposed of, transferred, or sold;

- d. Establish a research unit for the carrying out of its function; and
- e. Exercise such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry out the functions of the Center.

SEC. 6. *Executive Director.* – The administration of the Center shall be vested in an Executive Director who shall render full-time service. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Board. He shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term.

In case of vacancy by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Executive Director to perform the functions of the Center, the Board shall have the authority to designate an officer-in-charge of the Center within six (6) months from the date of vacancy pending the appointment of a new Executive Director.

The Executive Director shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- a. Direct the management, operations, and administration of the Center;
- b. Appoint such officers and employees, define their duties, fix their compensation, discipline, and dismiss any for cause, subject to the Civil Service Commission rules and regulations; and
- c. Develop arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public or private, local or foreign, and to appoint experts or specialists as consultants or researchers, as the case may be.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One hundred million (Php 100,000,000.00) for the initial operation and maintenance of the Center, including its building, facilities, and equipment, shall be sourced from the appropriations of the Department of Energy. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuous operation of the Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,