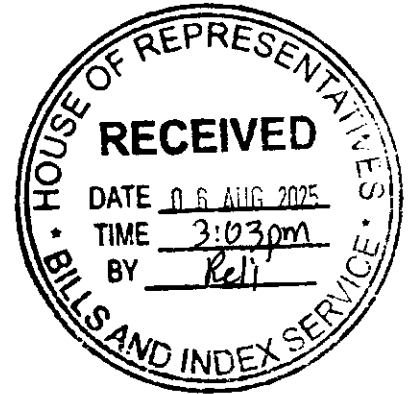




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3248

Introduced by
Representatives LEONEL "JHONG" D. CENIZA and MARIA CARMEN S. ZAMORA, MNSA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill, in recognizing the historical imbalance in access to higher education between the First and Second Districts of Davao de Oro, seeks to convert the Laak Satellite Campus of the Davao de Oro State College (DDOSC) into the **Laak Branch of the DDOSC**. It shall be granted a separate fiscal allocation and appropriate administrative support to ensure that it can effectively address the distinct educational and developmental needs of the Second District.

While the passage of Republic Act No. 10598, which established DDOSC (formerly Compostela Valley State College), laid the foundation for public higher education in the province, the institution's main campus and administrative structures are concentrated in the First District. The Laak Satellite Campus, though vital in serving the Second District, continues to operate with limited resources, budgetary dependence, and institutional capacity due to its status as a satellite unit.

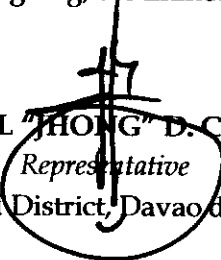
In recent years, the Municipality of Laak has demonstrated its readiness and commitment to higher education development. The local government has donated a permanent site for the campus, national agencies have initiated major infrastructure investments, and student enrollment has significantly increased. These developments reflect the district's growing need for a more responsive, well-supported, and locally empowered higher education institution that can directly contribute to the socio-economic development of the Second District.

This bill, therefore, seeks to institutionalize the Laak Satellite Campus as the **Laak Branch of the Davao de Oro State College**, with fiscal and administrative autonomy necessary for efficient operations and long-term growth. It affirms the right of communities in the Second District to equitable access to quality higher education, while ensuring that the branch remains under the academic and policy framework of the DDOSC.

The conversion shall be implemented in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), ensuring compliance with institutional, academic, and infrastructure

standards. Through this measure, the Laak Branch will be better positioned to fulfill its mission in teaching, research, and extension, while enhancing regional development and empowering future generations of learners in the Second District.

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


LEONEL "HONG" D. CENIZA
Representative
Second District, Davao de Oro


MARIA CARMEN S. ZAMORA, MNSA
Representative
First District, Davao de Oro



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3248

Introduced by
Representatives LEONEL "JHONG" D. CENIZA and MARIA CARMEN S. ZAMORA, MNSA

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE LAAK SATELLITE CAMPUS OF THE DAVAO DE ORO STATE
COLLEGE LOCATED IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF DAVAO DE ORO INTO THE
LAAK BRANCH OF THE DAVAO DE ORO STATE COLLEGE, GRANTING IT
SEPARATE FISCAL ALLOCATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to expand access to quality higher education, promote inclusive development, and strengthen regional academic institutions by ensuring that satellite campuses capable of functioning more independently are granted the institutional support necessary to serve their communities more effectively.

SECTION 2. Conversion. The existing Laak Satellite Campus of the Davao de Oro State College (DDOSC), located in the Municipality of Laak, Province of Davao de Oro, is hereby converted into a **branch of the DDOSC**, to be known as the **Laak Branch of the Davao de Oro State College** (hereinafter referred to as the "Laak Branch").

SECTION 3. Fiscal and Administrative Support. The Laak Branch shall be granted a **separate fiscal allocation and appropriate administrative support**, in coordination with the DDOSC, to ensure its effective operations and to address the distinct educational and developmental needs of the Second District of Davao de Oro.

SECTION 4. Compliance with CHED Standards. The implementation of this Act shall be undertaken in coordination with the **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** and under applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The Laak Branch shall comply with the minimum

institutional, academic, and administrative standards set by CHED for state universities and colleges (SUCs).

SECTION 5. *Mandate.* The Laak Branch shall primarily offer higher professional and technical instruction and training in agriculture, forestry, environmental science, teacher education, information technology, and other fields relevant to local and national development. It shall likewise promote research, extension services, and innovation that benefit the Municipality of Laak and nearby communities.

SECTION 6. *Governing Structure.* The Laak Branch shall remain under the supervision and governance of the Davao de Oro State College as per its charter and **Republic Act No. 8292**, otherwise known as the Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997, and other applicable laws. However, it shall maintain a dedicated administrative unit to manage its internal affairs and local operations.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the current year's budget of Davao de Oro State College for the Laak Satellite Campus. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and development of the Laak Branch shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Davao de Oro State College (DDOSC), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 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,