



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3397**

Introduced by **Representative Katrina Reiko Chua – Tai**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a national high school in Barangay Maasin, Zamboanga City, to be known as the Maasin National High School.

Section 1, Article XIV (*Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture and Sports*) of the Constitution provides that “*The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.*”

His Excellency, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos, Jr., in his fourth State of the Nation Address, emphasized the urgent challenges of the Filipino youth, including learning gaps, high dropout rates, and persistent child labor. He reaffirmed his administration’s unwavering commitment to prioritize education as a national concern. The President outlined significant investments in educational infrastructure, including the construction of 18,000 classrooms by the end of his term. He also announced the nationwide implementation of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program and renewed support for Early Childhood Care and Development, which are especially important for indigent families in the far-flung areas, such as the First Legislative District of Zamboanga City.

A significant gap persists between learners and educational institutions characterized by shortage of classrooms, inadequate learning materials, and limited technological integration. Despite the creativity and dedication of teachers and school administrators, these efforts are often hindered by insufficient resources.

In the First Legislative District of Zamboanga City, these problems are particularly noticeable. The Department of Education’s Division of Zamboanga City reported that enrollment reached 133,000 students but only 78 schools were deemed ready for the *Brigada Eskwela* for the School Year 2025–2026.

This discrepancy has forced many schools to use makeshift learning spaces such as shaded areas under trees, unused canteens, covered courts, or even dilapidated small staff offices. These environments are not conducive to learning and expose students to discomfort and risks, especially during inclement weather.

Recognizing that schools must remain the cornerstone of our formal education system, and that no student should be deprived of a quality learning environment due to a lack of infrastructure, this proposed measure aims to establish a national high school in Barangay Maasin in the First Legislative District of Zamboanga City.

The school will directly address the severe classroom shortage in the district based on the Department of Education's standard criteria. It will eliminate travel-related and incidental school expenses, improve accessibility for learners, and serve as a beacon of educational progress in the community. Most importantly, it will unite students, parents, educators, and residents in a shared mission to foster academic excellence within a safe and supportive environment.

This bill is proposed in direct response to a formal petition from the residents of Barangay Maasin reflecting their collective aspiration for accessible and inclusive education. It is also a critical step toward building a brighter future for our youth and ensuring the sustained development of the First Legislative District of Zamboanga City and the nation as a whole.

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



KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3897

Introduced by **Representative Katrina Reiko Chua – Tai**

1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY**
3 **MAASIN, ZAMBOANGA CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAASIN**
4 **NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**
5 **THEREFOR**

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7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
8 *Congress assembled:*
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10 SECTION 1. There is hereby established in Barangay Maasin,
11 Zamboanga City, a national high school to be known as the Maasin National
12 High School.

13 The school shall be administered and supervised by the Department of
14 Education for policy and program formulation and implementation, and
15 technical assistance.

16 SEC.2. The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the
17 Department's program the operationalization of the Maasin National High
18 School, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
19 Appropriations Act.

1 SEC. 3. Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of
2 this Act, the Secretary of Education shall formulate the rules and regulations
3 implementing the provisions of this Act. Such implementing rules and
4 regulations shall provide for the school's organization, administration,
5 operations, and management, in accordance with Republic Act (RA) No. 9155
6 or the "*Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001*," RA 10533 or the
7 "*Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013*," and other basic education-related
8 laws.

9 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
10 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

11 Approved,