

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez,
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.,
and Representative Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai*

House Bill No. 5365

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the University of the Philippines in Zamboanga City (UP Zamboanga) to expand access to quality education in the Western Mindanao region and to uphold the constitutional mandate of making education accessible to all. The proposed UP Zamboanga will serve as a center of excellence in higher education, research, and innovation in the Zamboanga Peninsula, benefiting students from nearby provinces and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

At present, the University of the Philippines System is composed of eight constituent universities located in various parts of the country, but only one campus—UP Mindanao—serves the entire island of Mindanao. Established through Republic Act No. 7889 in 1995, UP Mindanao is located in Davao City and has contributed greatly to regional development in Southern Mindanao. However, students from Western Mindanao and BARMM continue to face limited access to the nation's premier state university due to geographic and economic constraints. The establishment of UP Zamboanga will address this inequity by providing more affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to students from this underserved region.

The creation of UP Zamboanga aligns with the University's commitment to national development by strengthening science, technology, agriculture, and community-relevant medical education in Mindanao. It will promote inclusive growth, foster innovation, and produce graduates who can help transform the socio-economic landscape of Western Mindanao and neighboring areas. Moreover, this initiative supports the government's thrust to decentralize education, promote regional development, and achieve lasting peace and progress in Mindanao.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.


KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez,
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.,
and Representative Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai*

House Bill No. **5365**

AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ZAMBOANGA CITY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SEC. 1. This Act shall be known as the "University of the Philippines in Zamboanga Act".

SEC. 2. The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines is hereby authorized to carry out the establishment of an autonomous campus of the University of the Philippines in Zamboanga City, hereinafter referred to as UP Zamboanga.

SEC. 3. The campus of UP-Zamboanga shall be located in Zamboanga City to be specified by the City Government in an area not exceeding 400 hectares to be set aside by a proclamation of the President of the Philippines. The campus shall be utilized exclusively for educational purposes and for such other activities related to research and training activities of UP Zamboanga.

SEC. 4. The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines shall have full authority to determine the instruction, research, extension programs, schedule of preparatory work and initial operations, organizational structure, qualifications and number of academic and other personnel, enrollment and other matters related to the administration and operation of UP Zamboanga; Provided, That the academic program shall put on science, technology and agricultural education; Provided, further, That the medical education program shall adopt a community relevant step-ladder approach with the view of encouraging graduates to serve Mindanao.

SEC. 5. The University of the Philippines in Zamboanga shall provide a special scholarship program and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving Muslims and other members of cultural communities to qualify for admission to the University.

No student shall be denied admission to UP Zamboanga by reason of sex, religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

SEC. 6. The University of the Philippines in Zamboanga shall network and coordinate with other state universities and colleges (SUCs) in such areas which shall contribute to the development of Mindanao.

SEC. 7. The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines shall submit a report to the President of the Philippines, Congress and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on the actions that the University has taken pursuant hereto within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 8. The amount of Fifty Million Pesos (PhP 50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the savings of the Office of the President as initial operating expenses of UP Zamboanga. Thereafter, such additional amount as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. All laws, decrees, orders, proclamation, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,