

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5843



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ISIDRO D. LUMAYAG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was originally filed during the 19th Congress, where it was approved by the House of Representatives on third reading and transmitted to the Senate. However, the Senate failed to act on the measure. Accordingly, it is being re-filed in the 20th Congress.

This bill aims to establish a Technical Education and Skills Authority (TESDA) District Office for the 1st Legislative District of South Cotabato, to be located in the Municipality of Polomolok, South Cotabato.

Through Republic Act No. 11243, the 1st District of South Cotabato was reapportioned in 2019, resulting in the creation of the Lone Legislative District of General Santos City. As a result, the 1st District of South Cotabato is now limited to the Municipalities of Polomolok, Tupi, and Tampakan.

Prior to the reapportionment, residents of Polomolok, Tupi, and Tampakan who intended to avail themselves of TESDA services, training programs, and initiatives were required to travel to TESDA offices situated outside the district. This situation was not only inconvenient and time-consuming but also involved additional expenses. Consequently, the establishment of a TESDA District Office in Polomolok, South Cotabato, will significantly improve access to TESDA services and training opportunities for the local community.

The 1st District of South Cotabato is also home to Dole Philippines, Inc., the world's largest pineapple producer, along with numerous agro-based industries. These industries, together with their associated enterprises, regularly require highly skilled workers, machine operators, professional drivers, industrial workers, agro-based technicians, and various service providers. The establishment of a TESDA District Office in this region is not only strategically advantageous due to the presence of these industries but also highly beneficial for the local community and, ultimately, for regional growth and development.

The Municipality of Polomolok is classified as a first-class suburban municipality. It is the largest municipality within the 1st District of South Cotabato and the entire South Cotabato Province. The municipality was ranked ninth in the overall Most Competitive Municipality and fourth in the Economic Dynamism Pillar across the Philippines. It exhibits economic development and is increasingly recognized as a hub for commerce and industry in Region 12. Furthermore, its well-established road network renders it highly accessible. Consequently, Polomolok, South Cotabato, emerges as an ideal and practically suitable location for the TESDA District Office.

Finally, residents of the 1st District of South Cotabato, especially those from low-income families, will be able to access TESDA services right in their community. Ultimately, the vocational skills training will help them find practical livelihood options and gain meaningful employment locally and beyond.

Hence, the approval of this measure is highly recommended.



REP. ISIDRO D. LUMAYAG
1st District, South Cotabato

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
DISTRICT OFFICE FOR THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF SOUTH COTABATO IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF POLOMOLOK, PROVINCE OF
SOUTH COTABATO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established a regular district office of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in the First Legislative District of South Cotabato, to be known as the "TESDA-Polomolok District Office". It shall be located in a highly accessible area in the Municipality of Polomolok, Province of South Cotabato.

SEC. 2. The TESDA-Polomolok District Office shall serve the Municipalities of Polomolok, Tampakan, and Tupi, all located in the First Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato.

SEC. 3. The TESDA shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern for the TESDA-Polomolok District Office and submit the same to the Department of Budget and Management for approval.

SEC. 4. The Secretary General of TESDA shall immediately include the operationalization of the TESDA-Polomolok District Office in the program of TESDA, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the existing TESDA South Cotabato Provincial Office. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the TESDA-Polomolok District Office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,