



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6785**



Introduced by Representatives **MARCELINO C. LIBANAN**
and **CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE MATARINAO SCHOOL OF FISHERIES
INTO THE EASTERN SAMAR POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF
FISHERIES AND TECHNOLOGY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Matarinao School of Fisheries (MASOF), founded in 1967 under Republic Act No. 5037 and originally known as the “Southern Samar School of Fisheries,” was placed under the supervision of the Director of Vocational Education, consistent with the structure governing vocational and fisheries secondary schools at the time.

Over the decades, MASOF has significantly contributed to developing the technical skills of its students. However, the evolving demands of the fisheries sector, marine sciences, and related industries now call for a more advanced level of academic, technological, and scientific capacity. Despite Eastern Samar’s vast coastline and abundant marine resources, the province continues to face difficulties in fully harnessing these assets. This reality highlights the pressing need for sustainable livelihoods, modern technologies, and educational programs that align with the needs of industry and communities.

Transforming MASOF into the Eastern Samar Polytechnic Institute of Fisheries and Technology (ES-PIFT) will allow the institution to expand far beyond its current mandate. With the ability to offer higher-level programs in fisheries, aquaculture, marine sciences, engineering, and technology, ES-PIFT can become a hub for

research, innovation, and workforce development—producing graduates equipped to meet both local and global labor market demands and helping uplift communities that have long struggled with poverty.

By establishing ES-PIFT, this measure aims to strengthen the province’s fisheries and aquaculture sectors while providing a meaningful pathway for poverty reduction through enhanced competencies and broader opportunities for sustainable progress. In doing so, it reinforces the constitutional vision of education that promotes equal access, economic productivity, and national development.

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

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MARCELINO C. LIBANAN

Representative

4Ps Partylist

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CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES

Representative

Lone District, Eastern Samar



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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Eastern Samar
Polytechnic Institute of Fisheries and Technology.*”

SEC. 2. Conversion. - The Matarinao School of Fisheries (MASOF), established
through Republic Act No. 5037 and administered by the Department of Education is
hereby converted into the Eastern Samar Polytechnic Institute of Fisheries and
Technology (ESPIFT).

SEC. 3. Mandate. - The Eastern Samar Polytechnic Institute of Fisheries and
Technology shall provide advanced and specialized academic, technical, and
scientific programs in fisheries, aquaculture, marine sciences, engineering,
technology, and allied fields. It shall:

- a.** Develop higher-level training and research programs in fisheries and
related industries;
- b.** Establish linkages and partnerships with industry stakeholders and

higher education institutions;

c. Promote innovation, research, and development in sustainable fisheries and marine technologies;

d. Align its programs with local, regional, and global labor market demands.

SEC. 4. *Supervision.* - The governance, supervision, and academic standards of the Institute shall be in accordance with policies prescribed jointly by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR).

SEC. 5. *Curricular Offerings.* - The Institute is authorized to determine, design, and offer undergraduate, graduate, diploma, certificate, and short-term programs in fields relevant to its mandate, subject to approval of the appropriate regulatory agencies.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Education, the Director General of TESDA, and the Chairperson of CHED shall immediately include in their respective programs the operationalization of this Act, the funding of which shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Matarinao School of Fisheries. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the Institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, TESDA, CHED, and DA-BFAR, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,