

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6870



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution places education at the heart of nation building and commands the State to make quality education accessible to all. This commitment recognizes that social progress, human dignity, and national development begin with empowering every Filipino through learning.

For decades, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines has fulfilled this promise. As the country's largest state university system, PUP has served as a true people's university by providing high quality and affordable education in technology, engineering, business, and other applied fields. For countless poor and low-income families, PUP has been a lifeline, transforming talent and determination into opportunity, dignity, and hope.

Congress has consistently strengthened polytechnic institutions by upgrading their status and expanding their mandates, recognizing their critical role in industrialization, innovation, and regional development. Yet despite PUP's national reach, proven excellence, and central role in producing skilled professionals, it has not been formally declared and supported as the National Polytechnic University. This gap limits its ability to modernize facilities, expand priority programs, and fully respond to the demands of a rapidly changing economy.

This bill seeks to correct that imbalance by declaring and strengthening PUP as the National Polytechnic University. It affirms PUP's rightful place as a national hub for polytechnic and technological education, applied research, and workforce development, while ensuring stronger institutional support so it can continue opening doors for generations of Filipinos.

In the Nineteenth Congress, the House of Representatives approved a similar measure on Third Reading as House Bill No. 11341 on February 3, 2025. The bill was adopted by the Senate but was vetoed by the President on July 9, 2025. The passage of this measure remains vital to fulfilling the State's constitutional duty to prioritize education and invest in the Filipino people.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES,
DECLARING IT AS THE NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Revised Polytechnic University of the Philippines Charter*.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) is hereby strengthened into the country’s National Polytechnic University. In order to execute its mandate, it is hereby declared as the National Polytechnic University. As such, the PUP shall provide support to other polytechnic state universities and colleges in the development and delivery of professional and technical programs.

SECTION 3. Purpose. — As the National Polytechnic University, the PUP shall primarily offer higher occupational, technical, and professional instruction and training programs in the fields of engineering and architecture, applied sciences and other polytechnic programs.

To address the pressing social and economic needs of individuals and communities, the PUP shall also offer undergraduate and graduate programs accountancy, law, education, business, management, and other fields of study where it has established

niches and continues to excel. It shall also promote applied research, advanced studies, and progressive leadership in the stated fields.

SECTION 4. PUP Campuses and Other Units. — The PUP is composed of the following existing regular campuses: PUP-Main Campus in the City of Manila, National Capital Region (NCR); PUP- Quezon City Campus in Quezon City, NCR; PUP-San Juan Campus in San Juan City, NCR; PUP- Taguig City Campus in Taguig, NCR; PUP- Parañaque City Campus in Parañaque City, NCR; PUP- Caloocan City North Campus in the City of Caloocan, NCR; PUP-Maragondon Campus in the Municipality of Maragondon, Province of Cavite; PUP-Alfonso Campus in the Municipality of Alfonso, Province of Cavite; PUP-Bansud Campus in the Municipality of Bansud, Province of Oriental Mindoro; PUP-Bataan Campus in the Municipality of Mariveles, Province of Bataan; PUP- Cabiao Campus in the Municipality of Cabiao, Province of Nueva Ecija; PUP-Sta. Rosa Campus in the City of Sta. Rosa, Province of Laguna; PUP-Sto. Tomas Campus in the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Province of Batangas; PUP-Unisan Campus in the Municipality of Unisan, Province of Quezon; PUP-Mulanay Campus in the Municipality of Mulanay, Province of Quezon; PUP-Ragay Campus in the Municipality of Ragay, Province of Albay; PUP- Sablayan Campus in the Municipality of Sablayan, Province of Occidental Mindoro; and PUP-Leyte Campus in the Municipality of Leyte, Province of Leyte.

The PUP is also composed of the following extension campuses: PUP-Lopez Branch in the Municipality of Lopez, Province of Quezon; PUP-General Luna Campus in the Municipality of General Luna, Province of Quezon; PUP-San Pedro Campus in the City of San Pedro, Province of Laguna; PUP-Biñan, Laguna Campus in the Municipality of Biñan, Province of Laguna; PUP- Calauan Campus in the Municipality of Calauan, Province of Laguna; PUP-Pulilan Campus in the Municipality of Pulilan, Province of Bulacan; and PUP-Sta. Maria Campus in the Municipality of Sta. Maria, Province of Bulacan.

The PUP may create regular and extension campuses, as it may deem necessary: *Provided*, That the required land to be used as campus site and infrastructure shall be in place prior to the effectivity of the establishment and operation of the new campus: *Provided*, further, That the PUP shall ensure that the minimum requirements of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the establishment operation of regular and extension campuses, including those related to their course offerings, are fully complied with.

The PUP may open extension classes in consortium with other academic institutions, as it may deem necessary, to improve access to quality education, promote innovation

and progress in the academe, and advance its research capabilities, subject to applicable memoranda with other institutions: *Provided*, That the PUP shall comply with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the operation of extension classes.

The existing reasonably-sized laboratory junior and senior high school shall continue to operate under the supervision of the College of Education of the PUP to serve the in-campus requirements of its students.

SECTION 5. General Mandate. — The PUP shall primarily provide advanced education, higher technological training, and professional courses in various technical programs focusing on hands-on practical, and applied education in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). It shall design curricula that are aligned with the Philippine Qualifications Framework and that promote technological innovation. It shall also take the lead in developing the skills and competencies of students in various fields and in addressing the gap between education/skills and work/industry needs. It shall also undertake research and extension services, as well as production activities, in support of the socio-economic development of the country.

SECTION 6. Curricular Offerings. — The PUP shall primarily offer diploma, undergraduate and graduate programs, advanced professional and technical instruction, and high-level technical training programs in STEM and other applied sciences, as well as provide cutting-edge innovations in technology through industry-aligned programs. It shall also offer diploma and degree programs in engineering, information and communications technology, office management technology, business administration, public administration, other social and natural sciences and technology, accountancy, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, education, law, medicine and allied health sciences, and, maritime education, among others, within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to the human resource development needs of the country: *Provided*, That the PUP shall comply with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the offering of courses and the introduction of new or revised programs: *Provided, further*, That polytechnic programs shall comprise more than fifty percent (50%) of its program offerings in all campuses.

SECTION 7. Administration. — The PUP shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Republic Act (RA) No. 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines.” The exercise of its corporate powers

shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, and the President of the PUP.

SECTION 8. The Governing Board. — The governing body of the PUP shall be the Board of Regents, which shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the CHED with the President of the PUP as vice-chairperson, and the following as members:

- (a) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education of the Senate;
- (b) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives;
- (c) Secretary or representative of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- (d) Secretary or representative of the Department of Science and Technology;
- (e) President of the federation of alumni associations of the PUP;'
- (f) President of the federation of faculty association of the PUP representing all teaching personnel, elected by the said personnel in accordance with the rules and qualifications set out by the same constituency;
- (g) President of the student council association, elected by the students in accordance with the rules and qualifications set out by said constituency;
- (h) Representative of the nonteaching personnel association; and
- (i) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a list of five (5) qualified persons as recommended by a Search Committee constituted by the President of the PUP, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and other members of the Board, based on the guidelines, qualifications and standards for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

The term of office of the Presidents of the federation of faculty associations, federation of student councils, federation of alumni associations, and the Representative of the nonteaching personnel association of the PUP shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

The members shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in attending Board meetings or in connection with their official business authorities by resolution of the Board.

In case of vacancy in the Board, such vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the predecessor and such appointee shall hold the office only for the unexpired portion of the term. In the case of Members representing a particular sector, their membership shall cease upon suspension, separation, or recall.

SECTION 9. Powers and Duties of the Board. — The administration of the PUP and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board, which shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under Section 35 of the RA No. 11232, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- (a) Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on education, agriculture, science, and technology, and the policies, standards, and thrusts of the CHED under RA No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;
- (b) Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils, as herein provided;
- (c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the PUP, the vice presidents, chancellors, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other officials of the PUP;
- (d) Prescribe the salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provision of existing compensation laws, Civil Service rules and regulations governing hours of service and such other requirements and conditions, other pertinent laws, rules and regulations;
- (e) Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation fees, graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the PUP, shall constitute its funds to be used exclusively in the pursuit of its mandate as a National Polytechnic University and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the PUP.

The fees and charges collected by the PUP, including government subsidies and proceeds from other income sources, as well as interests that would accrue therefrom, shall be retained by the PUP: *Provided*, That in no case shall the said income be used for the payment of allowances and other benefits not authorized by law: *Provided, further*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purpose for which they were collected.

If the PUP, for reasons beyond its control, would not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said fund for any reasonable purpose for which it deems necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives of the PUP: *Provided*, That funds collected from students for specific purposes shall not be realigned or reprogrammed to other expenditures;

- (f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with RA No. 10931, otherwise known as the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”;
- (g) Establish professorial chairs in the PUP and provide fellowships for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;
- (h) Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided for by law for the support of the University, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the PUP;
- (i) Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;
- (j) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, sports, and human kinetics or any field of specialization within the academic competency of the PUP, and authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;
- (k) Establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the PUP;
- (l) Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local or foreign,

and appoint experts or specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

- (m) Adopt modern and innovative modes of transferring knowledge to allow greater access to education such as the use of information technology, online programs, the dual training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;
- (n) Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in restructuring the University to make it more efficient, relevant, productive, and competitive;
- (o) Absorb non-chartered tertiary education institutions within their respective provinces as branches, extension campuses, and external centers, in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and offer therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate of providing equal access to educational opportunities;
- (p) Authorize an external management audit of the PUP, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;
- (q) Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units, as well as public, private, local, or foreign institutions and agencies for the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the PUP;
- (r) Import books or publications, instruments, equipment, and apparatuses for economic, technical-vocational, scientific, medical, philosophical, historical, legal, or cultural purposes;
- (s) Enter into joint ventures with the business industry, after consultation with the NEDA for the profitable development and management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the PUP;
- (t) Receive, in trust, all legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when

necessary, for the benefit of the PUP and subject to the benefit of the PUP and subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any;

- (u) Extend the term of the President of the PUP beyond the age of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That such extension shall be subject to the term limits provided in Section 10 of this Act: *Provided, further*, That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has been decided upon by the Search Committee for the Presidency;
- (v) Delegate any of its powers and duties to the President and other officials of the PUP, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the PUP;
- (w) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent decision-making within the PUP;
- (x) Where most advantageous to the PUP, outsource the management of nonacademic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance, and other similar activities;
- (y) Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment, and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including the necessary supplies, materials, and equipment; and
- (z) Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and functions of the PUP.

SECTION 10. Meetings of the Board. — The Board shall regularly convene once every three (3) months. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, call a special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least three (3) days prior to the conduct of said meeting.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all its members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided*, however, That the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the PUP is among those present in the meeting.

In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a CHED Commissioner duly designated by the Chairperson of the CHED as representative to

the meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That during the meeting, the President of the PUP, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED may designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education cannot attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective representatives who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

The members of the Board shall serve without compensation other than reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance to the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 11. The President. — The PUP shall be headed by a President who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines, qualifications, and standards, and based on the recommendation of a search committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the President. The PUP President shall render full-time service for a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed to another term: *Provided*, That in order to ensure the attainment of its distinctive and purposeful mandate as such, as declared and provided for in this Act, the incumbent President of the PUP shall serve a new term as the first President of the PUP as the National Polytechnic University and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President of the PUP, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency, and shall ensure the appointment or reappointment of a President on or before the expiration of the term.

The powers and duties of the President of the PUP, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of colleges and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the President of the PUP shall be in accordance with existing compensation laws, and on the joint circular for state universities and colleges' leveling instruments, and guidelines of the CHED and the DBM.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the PUP, pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided*, That the OIC shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

The President of the PUP shall be assisted by the following officials: Executive Vice President; Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, Administration, Research, Planning and Development, Finance, Student Affairs, and External Affairs. They shall be appointed by the Board upon the President's recommendation without prejudice to the appointment of additional vice presidents when so warranted.

SECTION 12. The Secretary. — The Board shall appoint a Secretary who shall serve as such for both the Board and the University and shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board in addition to other duties and responsibilities. The Secretary of the University shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of Board meetings.

SECTION 13. The Treasurer. — The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the ex officio Treasurer of the University.

SECTION 14. The Administrative Council. — There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the PUP, as Chairperson, and the vice-president, deans, director, and other officials of equal rank, as members, whose duty is to review and recommend to the Board such policies governing the administration, management, and development planning of the PUP.

SECTION 15. The Academic Council. — There shall be an Academic Council consisting of the President of the PUP, as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members, which shall formulate academic policies.

The Academic Council shall review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules on student discipline, fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, exercise disciplinary power over the students and formulate rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the review and approval of the Board through the President of the PUP.

It shall have disciplinary power over the students of the PUP and shall formulate rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

SECTION 16. Academic Freedom. — The PUP shall enjoy academic freedom pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution. Taking into account national goals and priorities, it shall determine its teaching, research, and extension thrusts, plans, policies, programs, and standards consistent and in accordance with the policies, standards, guidelines, and other requirements promulgated by the CHED.

SECTION 17. Institutional Autonomy. — As the National Polytechnic University, the PUP shall be treated with greater flexibility. It shall determine its teaching, research, extension services, thrusts, plans, policies, programs, and standards consistent with its purpose, and according to the national goals and priorities, which shall be approved by the Board of Regents.

SECTION 18. Heads of Campuses. — The PUP campuses shall be headed by a Campus Director who shall render full-time service for a term of two (2) years and may be reappointed to another term.

The Campus Director shall be appointed or designated by the Board, upon the recommendation of the Search Committee and the PUP President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That upon the effectivity of this Act, the incumbent Campus Directors of the existing campuses of the PUP shall continue to serve as such.

SECTION 19. The Faculty. — No political belief, sex, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation, ethnic origin, or religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the PUP: *Provided*, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided, further*, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular religious denomination.

SECTION 20. Scholarship Programs and Admission. — The PUP shall provide scholarship programs and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the University. No student shall be denied admission to the PUP by reason of sex, gender, religion, cultural community affiliation, or ethnic origin, or any other forms of discrimination.

SECTION 21. Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel. — All assets, both real and personal, personnel and records of the PUP, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled under or named after the PUP pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

All parcels of land belonging to the government that shall be occupied by the PUP shall be the property of the PUP, and titled under its name: *Provided*, That should the PUP cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the PUP, the same shall revert to the local government unit concerned or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SECTION 22. Duty and Tax Exemptions. — The importation of books or publications, instruments, equipment and apparatuses which are for economic, technical-vocational, scientific, medical, philosophical, historical, legal or cultural purposes made by the PUP, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the PUP, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SECTION 23. Development Plan and Organizational Structure. — Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the PUP shall accomplish the following:

- (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to the CHED and the DBM;
- (b) Submit the revised Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan in accordance with RA No. 11396, otherwise known as the “SUCs Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Act”;
- (c) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and
- (d) Set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure, including the designation of the key officials and other administrative personnel of the PUP.

SECTION 24. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation

of the PUP. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 25. Suppletory Application. — The provisions of RA No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

SECTION 26. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

SECTION 27. Separability Clause. — If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 28. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 29. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,