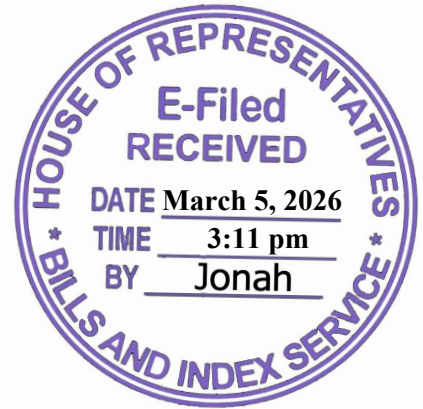


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8314



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

More than 27 years since its establishment, first as the Jose Rizal Memorial State College in 1996, then as a state university in 2010, the Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU) has grown to become a leading institution of higher and advanced education in the province of Zamboanga del Norte, its main service area. With a mandate to offer advanced education and higher technological and professional instruction across a diverse range of disciplines, JRMSU stands as a beacon of academic excellence and innovation within the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Although JRMSU has campuses in the Municipalities of Siocon and Labason, serving the southern and northern municipalities, respectively, of the Third District of Zamboanga del Norte, it struggles to reach the southernmost areas of the district. In the Municipality of Sibuco, JRMSU only offers offsite classes within a cramped two-storey building in Barangay Poblacion, which is severely insufficient to accommodate the growing number of prospective students. Consequently, youths aspiring for tuition-free college education are forced to enroll in JRMSU's remote campuses, enduring lengthy commutes of two to three hours. Far worse, some learners are dissuaded from pursuing higher education altogether due to the financial burdens associated with enrolling in distant colleges.

This bill therefore seeks to establish a regular campus of the JRMSU in the Municipality of Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte. This designated campus will be dedicated to addressing the needs of underprivileged students, ensuring that they have equitable access to comprehensive educational and information technology programs. In so doing, the mandate of the State to protect and promote the rights of all students to quality education at all levels and to make such education *accessible to all*, as provided by R.A. No. 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, will be fulfilled.

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


ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8314

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE JOSE RIZAL MEMORIAL
STATE UNIVERSITY (JRMSU) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUCO,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE
JRMSU-SIBUCO CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Jose Rizal Memorial State University-Sibuco Campus Act."

SEC. 2. There is hereby established a regular campus of the Jose Rizal Memorial State University, hereinafter referred to as the University, in the Municipality of Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, to be known as the Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU)-Sibuco Campus.

SEC. 3. The JRMSU-Sibuco Campus shall primarily provide short-term technical-vocational, undergraduate, and graduate courses within its areas of competency and specialization, pursuant to its mandate, and according to its capabilities as the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary to respond to meet the human resources development needs of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte and entire Region IX.

The JRMSU-Sibuco Campus is also mandated to undertake research and extension services, and to provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SEC. 4. The JRMSU-Sibuco Campus shall be headed by a Campus Administrator who shall render full-time service and be appointed or designated by the Board upon the recommendation of the search committee and the President of the University, subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board.

SEC. 5. The establishment of the JRMSU-Sibuco Campus shall ensure that the minimum requirements for its operation and program offerings have been complied with, as duly prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 6. All assets, real and personal, personnel, and records of the JRMSU-Sibuco Campus, as well as liabilities or obligations, shall be transferred to the University. The positions, rights, and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel employed at the JRMSU-Sibuco Campus under existing laws prior to the integration to the University shall be respected.

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

SEC. 7. The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997" shall form part of this Act, and together, shall serve as the governing charter of the JRMSU-Sibuco Campus.

SEC. 8. All other powers, functions, privileges, responsibilities, and limitations to state universities and its officials under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the JRMSU-Sibuco Campus and its officials, whenever appropriate.

SEC. 9. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,