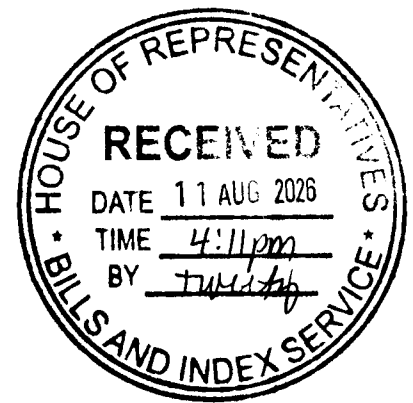


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10725**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1279 (P.D. No. 1279), signed by President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos on January 16, 1978. As the only state university in Ilocos Norte, MMSU provides quality and accessible higher education, including free tuition and tertiary education subsidies under Republic Act No. 10931 (R.A. No. 10931), otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act." It serves students not only from Ilocos Norte, but also from other provinces in Region I, and its neighboring regions.

MMSU's main campus is located in the City of Batac, far from the eastern municipalities of Ilocos Norte. Consistent with Sec. 1, Art. XIV of the 1987 Constitution and the education pillar of AmBisyon Natin 2040, which mandates the State to make quality education accessible to all, and promotes equitable access and reduced inequality respectively, there is a need to establish a new campus in the eastern part of Ilocos Norte, particularly in the Municipality of Nueva Era.

Nueva Era is home to a predominantly Indigenous population, with more than eighty-one percent (81%) of its residents belonging to the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs). Despite its rich cultural heritage and its leading role in preserving the province's indigenous traditions, the municipality continues to face challenges in accessing higher education due to its geographic location and limited educational opportunities. Establishing an MMSU extension campus in Nueva Era will not only expand access to quality tertiary education, but also promote inclusive development to strengthen the preservation and advancement of the cultural heritage of its Indigenous communities.

The MMSU-Nueva Era Campus will certainly provide much-needed technical training and advanced skills to support sustainable upland development, eco-cultural tourism, and emerging clean energy and climate-resilient industries in the eastern municipalities of Ilocos Norte.

Succinctly, the establishment of the MMSU-Nueva Era campus will not only serve as a center for training and development to address the need to extend educational aid to the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) in Ilocos Norte, but also, and most importantly, serve as a learning institution to benefit the entirety of the Province.

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



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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House Bill No. **10725**

Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE MARIANO
MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
NUEVA ERA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, TO BE KNOWN
AS THE “MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY-NUEVA ERA
CAMPUS,” AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
“Mariano Marcos State University-Nueva Era Campus Act.”

SECTION 2. *Establishment.* - There is hereby established a regular campus of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), to be located in the Municipality of Nueva Era, Province of Ilocos Norte, which shall be known as the “Mariano Marcos State University-Nueva Era Campus.”

SECTION 3. *General Mandate.* - The MMSU-Nueva Era Campus shall primarily provide short-term, technical-vocational, undergraduate, and graduate courses within its areas of competency and specialization, according to its capability, as the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” may deem necessary to respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Ilocos Norte and the Ilocos Region. It is likewise mandated to undertake research and extension services in support of socioeconomic development and to provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SECTION 3. *Philippine National Maritime Academy.* – The existing Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMMA), as the national professional institution for maritime education, is hereby renamed as the

Philippine National Maritime Academy, hereinafter referred to as the PNMA. As such, the PNMA shall specialize in maritime and maritime-related programs.

SECTION 4. *Supervision and Management.* – The MMSU-Nueva Era Campus shall be headed by a Campus Administrator, to be appointed by the Board of Regents, subject to its guidelines, qualifications and standards, and upon the recommendation of a Search Committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the Campus Administrator.

SECTION 5. *Compliance with the Requirements of the Commission on Higher Education.* - The MMSU shall ensure compliance of the MMSU-Nueva Era Campus with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the operation of the campus, including those related to the offering of courses and the introduction of new or revised courses and programs prior to its establishment.

SECTION 6. *Management of Personnel, Assets, and Records.*
- All assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the MMSU-Nueva Era Campus, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled or named after the MMSU: *Provided*, That should the campus cease to exist or be abolished, all assets shall be reverted to the concerned Municipality of Nueva Era or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Suppletory Application.* - The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292 (R.A. No. 8292), otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997,” shall form part of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified

accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,