




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC }
OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session }

17 MAR 30 P1 53

SENATE
Senate Bill No. **1413**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Everest Academy Inc. is the first Catholic international school in the Philippines and is part of a worldwide system of over 220 Catholic schools in 20 countries. The schools in this network are founded, owned, and operated by Regnum Christi, a Catholic movement composed of lay people and priests from the Religious Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ. The first work of apostolate of the Regnum Christi was the Cumbres Institute, a school in Mexico City which opened in 1954. Everest Academy Inc. is the first Regnum Christi School in Asia, and reports to the Regnum Christi headquarters in Rome.

All the Regnum Christi schools follow the educational philosophy and method developed by Regnum Christi and the Legion of Christ known as Integral Formation® or the development of all aspects of the student's personality: the intellectual, human, spiritual, and apostolic, dimensions of an individual.

Integral Formation® allows students to develop their full potential according to his or her unique gifts and talents, character and integrity. It encourages students to live according to the Gospel values. It develops leaders in the community, home, work place, and Church who have genuine concern for others.

Leadership training, as an educational principle of Integral Formation®, fosters social responsibility in students at all levels. Students are led to become responsible and compassionate leaders with the ability to recognize and identify the needs of their fellowmen, to understand how to solve problems, and to implement solutions for the good of all members of society.

This unique pedagogical approach that focused on holistic formation is achieved through faculty teamwork, low student-to-adult/teacher ratio, and personalized attention. While the Catholic Church emphasizes integral formation in all Catholic schools, what makes Everest Academy and all Regnum Christi schools unique is the manner by which Integral Formation® is carried out and applied to successfully develop well-rounded individuals. Regnum Christi schools have a comprehensive education program designed to achieve integral formation among all its students which is distinct from the basic methodologies prescribed by the Department of Education. These essential principles of Integral Formation® are offered through a highly specialized international team of religious, administration, faculty, and staff.

As an asset to the Philippine educational system, this proprietary system of Integral Formation®, which has delivered excellent results in over 20 countries in the world was brought to the Philippines through Everest Academy Inc.

Since its opening in Manila in August 2007, Everest Academy Inc. has been implementing an international curriculum developed and licensed by National Consultants for Education (NCE), an organization based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. This

international curriculum encompasses the highest educational standards in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia.

With an emphasis on academic excellence and leadership skills, this international curriculum allows for a solid, in-depth, and high level intellectual preparation that goes beyond the acquisition of knowledge to arrive at an intellectually mature person. This is fundamental to the integral development of our students and required by the social responsibility they have. This curriculum was developed in accordance to the Regnum Christi educational mission in the preparation of our students as leaders in a globalized world village with the capacity to renew society.

Everest Academy Inc. follows international standards and further uses international methods of evaluation and standardized testing to prepare them to qualify for universities abroad, particularly the United States. This includes the administration of the Stanford 10, which is a widely-used and rigorous norm referenced test published in the USA. It is implemented from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Student progress is analyzed annually, both individually and by class, to improve student learning.

High school students are prepared with the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT). SAT is a standardized test for college admissions in the United States published by the College Board. On the other hand, ACT is a standardized college entrance exam. Each of these evaluation tools provide a measure of our students' progress in relation to their international counterparts abroad allowing for a competitive preparation.

At the High school level, Everest Academy offers Honors level and Advanced Placement (AP) courses as means to academically challenge our students and to prepare them to successfully enter university and college levels locally and abroad. These classes challenge the more advanced students and allow them to work at a pace that is appropriate for their learning ability and style.

Honors courses are taught at an above-grade level standard and require above-average academic performance, application and aptitude in the subject areas. Advanced Placement courses are structured as college-level courses, are more rapidly paced, and cover a greater depth of content. Admission to an AP course requires proven high-level academic performance, above-average aptitude and student application and dedication.

Course electives allow students to extend and explore their specific interests and talents. Students may specialize in STEM, Humanities, Fine Arts, as a means of pursuing their post-secondary education choices.

Everest Academy Inc. has international accreditation through AdvancEd, the largest community of educational professionals committed to help schools achieve world class level of educational practice. As an accrediting agency, AdvancEd is partner to 32,000 schools and school systems—employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 other nations.

Everest Academy offers its services to the Archdiocese of Manila and the local Christian and surrounding communities, specifically Filipino and foreign families who seek quality international and Catholic education for their children. As such, the population is made up of approximately 70% Filipino students, 20% students of mixed Filipino and foreign descent and 10% foreign and expat families.

Unfortunately, there are no local Filipino educators and administrators who have the level of experience implementing the Integral Formation® program equal to the

experience of their counterparts in the countries the Regnum Christi schools have been in operation for the past 50-60 years. For Filipino and Philippine based families to fully benefit and achieve the full potential of the program, foreign experts with years of experience on Integral Formation® and the NCE curriculum shall take active roles in the administration and management of Everest Academy. This is crucial for the school to be able to fulfill the Vision and Mission that it has set out to do.

In view of the foregoing, there is a need to transform the present Everest Academy Inc. into an educational institution of international character, to be known as the Everest Academy International School, so as it may be granted by law certain prerogatives such as, but not limited to, the election of members of the Board who may or may not be foreign citizens, appointment of a school head who need not be a Filipino, and employment of foreign educators who are recognized experts and with years of experience with Integral Formation and the NCE curriculum.

For this purpose, the bill aims to recognize the Everest International Academy as an international school and grant it with certain prerogatives conducive to its growth such in the case of Southville International School and the Cebu International School.

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


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator



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**"AN ACT
RECOGNIZING EVEREST ACADEMY AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF
INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES TO
HASTEN ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Everest Academy, herein referred to as the School, is hereby declared an
2 educational institution of international character authorized to operate educational programs that
3 primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and recognized educational policies.
4

5 **SECTION 2.** Everest International Academy shall be the registered name of the School
6 and shall have as its members the school management and the parents or guardians, whether of
7 Philippine or foreign nationality, of the children who have enrolled and attended the School for
8 at least one (1) school year: *Provided*, that the school year shall be determined in accordance
9 with the School's own calendar of studies and work schedule: *Provided, further*, That the
10 School shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, herein referred to as the "Board", elected at
11 large from among the corporation's members of good standing.
12

13 **SECTION 3.** To enable the School to continue carrying out its educational program,
14 improve its standard of instruction and meet the special needs of the foreign temporary resident
15 community for quality education, it shall:

- 16 (a) Be able to accept provisions and donations of every kind to carry out the purposes of
17 the Everest International Academy and be entitled to use properties, real or personal,
18 so donated and to construct and own buildings thereon exclusively for educational
19 purposes: *Provided*, That for any reason, Everest International Academy, ceases to
20 occupy and/or use real properties it may acquire by virtue of this Act, the properties
21 and all improvements thereon of permanent nature shall accrue to the Government of
22 the Republic of the Philippines;
23

- 1 (b) Whenever necessary to carry out its objectives, have the right to obtain leases on real
2 properties, acquire personal properties, tangible or intangible, or any interests in such
3 properties other real, by purchase, lease, barter, donation, gift or otherwise, and
4 dispose of, mortgage or encumber them for the benefit of the school concerned;
5
- 6 (c) Accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own
7 eligibility standards, and rules for admission and grade placement: *Provided*, That no
8 single alien nationality shall consist more than thirty percent (30%) of the entire
9 student population in a given school year, as stated in the records of the School;
10
- 11 (d) Be managed and administered by a President/Principal/Executive Director, who may
12 or may not be a Filipino citizen and who possesses the qualifications prescribed by
13 the Board;
14
- 15 (e) Upon consultation with the Secretary of Education, determine its own curriculum and
16 teach whatever language or languages it may deem proper and determine the amount
17 of fees and assessments which may be reasonably imposed upon its pupils and/or
18 students, to maintain or conform to Everest International Academy's standard of
19 education;
20
- 21 (f) Maintain the international standards of education compatible with those obtained in
22 similar schools of generally recognized standing; and,
23
- 24 (g) Employ its own teaching and management personnel selected by the Board either
25 locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other countries or nationalities, such foreign
26 personnel being exempt from laws that impose nationality restrictions on control and
27 administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been or will be
28 enacted for the protection of employees: *Provided*; That such exemption shall not
29 extend to their liability for income taxes, unless otherwise provided by a bilateral
30 agreement;
31
- 32 (h) Promote international friendship, goodwill and understanding among members of the
33 foreign community and citizens of the Philippines; and,
34
- 35 (i) Not to teach anything derogatory to the prestige and well-being of the Philippines and
36 its people, nor those which will subvert its institutions and government.
37

38 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the members of the
39 Board of the Everest International Academy, shall issue such rules as may be necessary to carry
40 out the provisions of this Act.

1 **SECTION 5.** If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act is subsequently
2 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full
3 force and effect.

4
5 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
6 Official Gazette.

7
8 *Approved,*