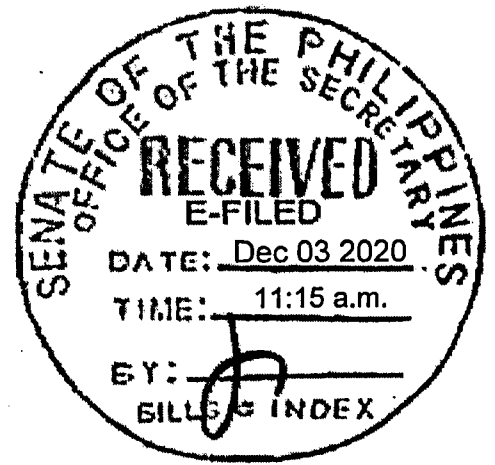


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
S. B. No. 1936

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BASILAN STATE COLLEGE (BASSC) IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BASILAN STATE UNIVERSITY (BASSU), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Higher education has a unique role in preparing learners with the necessary and advanced knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's global economy. According to USAID's EducationLinks, education creates pathways to economic growth, reduces poverty, increases child well-being, improves health outcomes, strengthens human rights, and is associated with lower crime rates. Without adequate higher education and research institutions providing a critical mass of skilled and educated people, no country can ensure genuine endogenous and sustainable development.

In May 2015, a study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency Nomura Research Institute, Ltd. concluded that the human resources which industry needs from graduates of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) should have (1) "Key Generic Skills" in order for them to be creative, responsible, and capable of problem-solving, which will eventually equip them to become the core leaders/managers of organizations and to drive businesses; and, (2) "High Expertise" of respective disciplines in order for them to contribute to the attainment of the medium to long-term national development goals of the Philippines. To achieve this, there is a need for the government to invest heavily in higher education.

The establishment of BASSC by virtue Presidential Decree No. 1943 in 1984, has chartered the direction of higher education in the Province of Basilan. In fact, there is marked increase in Basilan's literacy rate over the past two decades. Based on the 2015 Census, the Province of Basilan recorded an 85.6% literacy rate for its 210,484-household population aged 10 years and over.

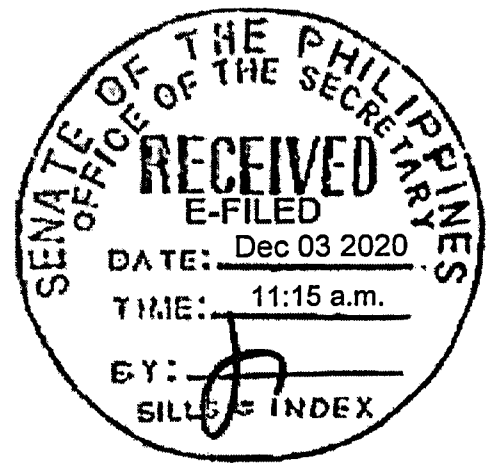
At present, the BASSC is the only public institution in the province that provides tertiary education. In order to provide higher quality education to more students in the Province of Basilan and various nearby cultural communities, this bill seeks the conversion of the Basilan State College (BASSC) including its satellite campuses in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan into a state university to be known as the Basilan State University (BASSU). The conversion of BASSU into a state university shall give reform to its educational system equal to that standard of a university, and shall open more opportunities for advance education and professional training in research and in the students chosen fields of education.

To assist the national government in improving access to and promoting priority disciplines for the growth sector and optimizing the role of higher education in poverty alleviation and social development, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



SONNY ANGARA

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
S. B. No. 1936

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BASILAN STATE COLLEGE (BASSC) IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BASILAN STATE UNIVERSITY (BASSU), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION. 1. Conversion.** – The Basilan State College in the City of Isabela,
2 Province of Basilan, including its extension campuses in the Municipalities of Tipo-
3 Tipo and Maluso and the cities of Lamitan and Isabela, all located in the Province of
4 Basilan is hereby converted to a state university, to be known as the Basilan State
5 University (BASSU). Its main campus shall be located in Barangay Sumagdang,
6 Isabela City.

7 **SEC. 2. General Mandate.** – The BASSU shall primarily provide advance
8 education, higher technological, professional and vocational courses, and training in
9 arts and sciences, education, agriculture and industrial fields, management,
10 criminology, maritime, medical education, legal education, non-traditional courses
11 and other relevant fields of study. As well as short-term technical or vocational
12 courses. It shall also undertake research and extension services and production
13 activities, in support of the socio-economic development of the province of Basilan
14 and REGION IX.

15 **Sec. 3. Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.** – The BASSU shall
16 enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to paragraph 2,
17 Section 5 of Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution.

1 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offerings** – The BASSU shall offer short-term technical-
2 vocational undergraduate, and graduate courses within its areas of competency and
3 specialization in the fields of arts and sciences, teacher education, engineering,
4 science and technology, information and communications technology, management
5 and accountancy, medical education, legal education, tourism, maritime education,
6 criminology, and other relevant fields of study, as the Board of Regents may deem
7 necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to
8 meet the human resource development needs of the Province of Basilan and the
9 REGION IX.

10 The existing and any other future technical-vocational courses under the
11 supervision of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
12 shall remain and continue to be offered within the campuses of the BASSU.

13 The existing reasonably-sized laboratory senior high school and elementary
14 school shall continue to operate under the supervision of the College of Education
15 of the BASSU to serve the in-campus requirements of its students.

16 **SEC. 5. Administration.** – The BASSU shall have the general powers of a
17 corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as
18 “The Corporation Code of the Philippines.” The exercise of its corporate powers shall
19 be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board,
20 and the President of the BASSU.

21 **SEC. 6. The Governing Board.** – The governing body of the BASSU shall be
22 the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the
23 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the President of the BASSU,
24 respectively, and with the following as members:

25 (a) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational
26 Education of the Senate of the Philippines;

27 (b) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of
28 the House of Representatives;

29 (c) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development
30 Authority in REGION IX (NEDA)

31 (d) The Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology
32 (DOST) in REGION IX

- 1 (e) The Regional Director of the TESDA in REGION IX;
2 (f) The Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in REGION
3 IX;
4 (g) President of the federation of faculty associations of the BASSU;
5 (h) President of the federation of student councils of the BASSU;
6 (i) President of the federation of alumni associations of the BASSU; and
7 (j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have
8 distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

9 The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from among a list of
10 at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Basilan where the BASSU and
11 its campuses are located, as recommended by a search committee constituted by
12 the President of the University, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED
13 and other members of the Board, based on the standards and qualifications for the
14 position.

15 The term of office of the President of the federation of faculty associations,
16 the President of the federation of student councils, and the President of the
17 federation of alumni association shall be coterminous with their respective terms of
18 office, as set forth in their respective constitutions and bylaws.

19 The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years from
20 the date of appointment.

21 **Sec. 7. Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.** – In addition to its
22 general powers of administration and the powers granted to the Board of Directors
23 of a corporation under existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific
24 powers and duties:

- 25 (a) To promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared
26 State policies and the provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education,
27 agriculture, science and technology, as well as the policies, standards and
28 thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the
29 "Higher Education Act of 1994";
30 (b) To approve the curricula, instructional programs and rules of discipline
31 drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils herein provided;

1 (c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the BASSU, the
2 vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members
3 and other officials and employees of the BASSU;

4 (d) To fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members and administrative
5 officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised
6 Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget
7 and compensation laws governing the hours of service, and such other duties
8 and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves
9 of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of
10 existing law to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause
11 in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;

12 (e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges including
13 matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may
14 deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the involved sectors.
15 Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income
16 generated by the BASSU, shall constitute a special trust fund and shall be
17 deposited in any authorized government depository bank: *Provided*, That, all
18 interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for
19 the use of the BASSU.

20 Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary
21 notwithstanding, any income generated by the BASSU from tuition fees and
22 other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land
23 grants, shall be retained by the BASSU, and may be disbursed by the Board
24 for instruction, research, extension services, or other programs or projects of
25 the BASSU: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific
26 purposes for which these are collected. *Provided*, however, that if, for
27 reasons beyond its control, the BASSU shall not be able to pursue any project
28 for which the funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved
29 program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for
30 any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent
31 for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the BASSU.

- 1 (f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees
2 for greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with Republic
3 Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act"
- 4 (g) To establish professorial chairs in the BASSU and to provide fellowships
5 for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;
- 6 (h) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support
7 of the University in the manner it may determine, in its discretion, in order
8 to carry out the purpose and functions of the University;
- 9 (i) To set the policies on admission and graduation of students;
- 10 (j) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their
11 outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts,
12 science and technology, agriculture or in any field of specialization within the
13 academic competence of the BASSU, and to authorize the awarding of
14 certificates of completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;
- 15 (k) To establish research and extension centers to promote the development
16 of the BASSU;
- 17 (l) To develop academic arrangements for institutional capacity building with
18 appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local and foreign,
19 and to appoint experts or specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or
20 exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;
- 21 (m) To adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such
22 as the use of information technology, the dual training system, open distance
23 learning, and community laboratory for the promotion of greater access to
24 education;
- 25 (n) To collaborate with other governing boards of state colleges and
26 universities within the Province of Basilan or REGION IX, under the
27 supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget
28 and Management (DBM), and work towards the restructuring of the BASSU
29 to become more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;
- 30 (o) To establish and absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the
31 Province of Basilan and REGION IX as branches and centers, in coordination
32 with the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and to offer therein

1 programs or courses to promote and carry out equal access to educational
2 opportunities, as mandated by the Constitution;

3 (p) To authorize an external management audit of the BASSU, to be financed
4 by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit
5 (COA), and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes,
6 on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

7 (q) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local
8 government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and private,
9 local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the
10 BASSU;

11 (r) To import economic, technical and cultural books and publications;

12 (s) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable
13 development and management of the economic assets of the University, the
14 proceeds from which shall be used for the development and strengthening
15 of the BASSU;

16 (t) To receive, in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal
17 properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when
18 necessary for the benefit of the University, and subject to the limitations,
19 directions and instructions of the donor, if any;

20 (u) To extend the term of the President of the BASSU beyond the age of
21 retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70): *Provided*, That the
22 President's performance has been unanimously rated by the Board as
23 outstanding, based on the guidelines, qualifications and standards it has set,
24 and after unanimous recommendation by the search committee.

25 (v) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove to the
26 President or other officials of the BASSU, as it may deem appropriate, so as
27 to expedite the administration of the affairs of the BASSU;

28 (w) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-
29 making and transparency within the BASSU;

30 (x) To privatize, where most advantageous to the BASSU, the management
31 of nonacademic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property
32 maintenance and such other similar activities;

- 1 (y) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery,
2 equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real
3 property, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment; and
4 (z) To promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out
5 the purposes and functions of the BASSU.

6 **Sec. 8. Meetings of the Board.** - The Board shall regularly convene once
7 every three (3) months. Whenever necessary, the Chairperson of the Board may
8 call, upon three (3) days prior written notice to the members, a maximum of two
9 (2) special meetings within the same period.

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

13 In case the CHED Chairperson cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a CHED
14 Commissioner duly designated by the CHED Chairperson as representative to the
15 meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided,*
16 *however,* That in the said meeting, the President of the BASSU, as Vice Chairperson,
17 shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further,* That this *proviso,* notwithstanding,
18 the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED
19 Commissioner as the regular person of the Board, in which case, the said CHED
20 Commissioner, as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said
21 CHED Commissioner, as the regular Chairperson of the Board, shall act as the
22 presiding officer.

23 In case the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and
24 Vocational Education and House Committee on Higher and Technical Education shall
25 not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may duly designate their respective
26 representatives to attend the meeting, who shall have the same rights and
27 responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

28 The members of the Board shall not receive any salary, but shall be entitled
29 to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their
30 attendance in the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business
31 authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

1 **Sec. 9. *The University President.*** - The BASSU shall be headed by a
2 President, who shall render full-time service and who shall be appointed by the
3 Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board, upon
4 recommendation of duly constituted search committee. The BASSU President shall
5 have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another
6 term: *Provided*, That in order to effect the smooth transition of the BASSC to a state
7 university, the incumbent president of the BASSC, if qualified, shall serve as the first
8 president of the BASSU.

9 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the
10 incumbent President of the BASSU, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee
11 for the Presidency (SCP).

12 In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death,
13 compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President
14 to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge
15 (OIC) of the University within six (6) months from the date of vacancy, pending the
16 appointment of the new President. The successor or the OIC shall serve only for
17 unexpired portion of the term.

18 The powers and duties of the President of the BASSU, in addition to those
19 specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the
20 President of similar university es, and those delegated by the Board.

21 The salary of the President of the BASSU shall be in accordance with Republic
22 Act No. 11466 or the "Salary Standardization Law od 2019", and by such other laws
23 amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to
24 that being received by the presidents of similar educational institutions.

25 The President of the BASSU shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic
26 Affairs, a Vice President for Administration, and a Vice President for Research,
27 Development and Extension, who shall be appointed by the Board upon
28 recommendation of the President of the BASSU.

29 **Sec. 10. *The Secretary of the University.*** The Board shall appoint a
30 Secretary, who shall serve as such for both the Board and the BASSU and who shall
31 keep all records and proceedings of meetings of the Board. The Secretary of the

1 BASSU shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of the
2 Board meetings.

3 **Sec. 11. *The Treasurer of the University.*** - The Treasurer of the Philippines
4 shall be the *ex officio* Treasurer of the BASSU. *1âwphi1*

5 **Sec. 12. *The Administrative Council.*** There shall be an Administrative Council
6 consisting of the President of the BASSU as Chairperson, and the vice presidents,
7 deans, directors and other officials of equal rank as members, whose duties are to
8 review and recommend to the Board the policies governing the administration,
9 management and development planning of the University.

10 **Sec. 13. *The Academic Council.*** - There shall be an Academic Council that
11 shall formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the President of the
12 BASSU, who shall act as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least
13 an assistant professor, as members.

14 The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend the
15 curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the BASSU, subject to the approval of
16 the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for
17 their graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to review and approval by the
18 Board through the President of the BASSU. It shall have the disciplinary power over
19 students of the BASSU and shall formulate academic policies and rules and
20 regulations on discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

21 **Sec. 14. *Head of University Campuses.*** The Campus Directors shall
22 respectively serve as heads or administrators of the BASSU's campuses and render
23 full-time service.

24 They shall be appointed or designated by the Board, upon recommendation
25 of the search committee and the President of the BASSU, subject to the guidelines,
26 qualifications and standards set by the Board; *Provided*, That upon the effectivity of
27 this Act, the incumbent Campus Directors of the existing campuses of the BASSC
28 shall continue to serve as such.

29 **Sec. 15. *The Faculty.*** - No political belief, gender preference, cultural or
30 community affiliation or ethnic origin, and religious opinion or affiliation shall be a
31 matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the
32 BASSU: *Provided*, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines,

1 qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided, further,* That no member
2 of faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

3 **Sec. 16. *Scholarship Program and Admission.*** - The BASSU shall provide a
4 scholarship and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving
5 students who qualify for admission to the BASSU.

6 No student shall be denied admission to the BASSU by reason of gender,
7 religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin. *1âwphi1*

8 **Sec. 17. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment, Supplies and***
9 ***Detail of Personnel.*** - The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national
10 government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the
11 President of the BASSU, such apparatus, equipment, or supplies as may be needed
12 by the BASSU, and to detail employees for duty therein when in the judgment of
13 the head of bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of
14 such employees can be spared without serious detriment to public service.

15 The employees so detailed shall perform such duties are required of them by
16 the President of the BASSU, and time so employed shall be counted as part of their
17 regular services.

18 **Sec. 18. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.*** - The assets, real and personal
19 personnel and records of the BASSC as well as liabilities or obligations, are hereby
20 transferred to the BASSU. *Provided,* That the positions, rights and security of tenure
21 of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the
22 conversion into a university shall be respected. *Provided, further,* that the
23 incumbents occupying the positions shall remain in the same status until otherwise
24 provided by the Board: *Provided, finally,* That the BASSU shall also accordingly
25 upgrade or increase its human resource component as may be deemed appropriate
26 by the Board

27 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the BASSC and
28 its campuses are hereby declared to be the property of the BASSU, and shall be
29 titled under its name: *Provided,* That the University cease to exist or be abolished
30 or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the BASSU,
31 the same shall revert to the LGUs concerned or to the Republic of the Philippines,
32 as the case may be.

1 **Sec. 19. *Tax Exemption on Importation and Donations.*** - The importation of
2 economic, technical and cultural books or publications, which are for economic,
3 technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural purposes made
4 by the BASSU upon certification by the CHED shall be exempt from customs duties
5 in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act. No. 19863, otherwise known as
6 the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)".

7 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations and contributions made to the
8 BASSU to be used actually, directly and exclusively by the BASSU shall be exempt
9 from donor's tax and the same shall be allowed as allowable deduction from the
10 gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the
11 donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of
12 1997, as amended.

13 **Sec. 20. *Development Plan, Management Audit, and Academic Structure.*** -
14 Within the period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act,
15 the BASSU shall accomplish the following:

16 (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding
17 program budget to the CHED, for corresponding recommendation to the DBM;

18 (b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and

19 (c) Set up its organizational, administrative, as well as academic structure,
20 including the appointment of key officials of the University.

21 **Sec. 21. *Filing of Report.*** - On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second
22 month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Board shall file with
23 the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the Chairperson of the CHED,
24 and with both House of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, conditions and
25 needs of the BASSU.

26 **Sec. 22. *Suppletory Application.*** - The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292,
27 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall be an
28 integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the Governing Charter of the
29 BASSU.

30 **Sec. 23. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.*** - The provisions of this Act
31 notwithstanding, the conversion of the BASSC into a state university shall become
32 effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the

1 recommendation of a panel of experts it shall constitute for the purpose, that the
2 institution has complied with the requirements for a university status based on CHED
3 Memorandum Order No. 46, series of 2012 (Policy Standards to Enhance Quality
4 Assurance (QA) in Philippine Higher Education, through the Outcomes-Based and
5 Typology-Based QA): *Provided*, That the panel may issue such a recommendation
6 when the BASSC has substantially complied with the requirements for the grant of
7 university status.

8 The following operational requirements for a university, as established by the
9 CHED, shall be complied with:

10 (a) Faculty members who possess relevant degrees in their areas of
11 specialization, as required by the CHED, and shall have participated in research and
12 development activities in their respective disciplines, as evidenced by refereed
13 publications and other scholarly outputs;

14 (b) A comprehensive range of degree programs in all levels, from basic
15 postsecondary to doctoral programs;

16 (c) Viable research programs in specific (disciplinal and multidisciplinary)
17 areas of study that produce new knowledge, as evidenced by refereed publications,
18 citations, inventions, and patents, among others;

19 (d) Comprehensive learning resources and support structures, to include
20 libraries, practicum laboratories, relevant educational resources, and linkages with
21 the relevant disciplinal and professional sectors, to allow students to explore basic,
22 advance, even cutting-edge knowledge in a wide range of disciplines or professions;

23 (e) Active and ongoing linkages and affiliation with other research institutions
24 in various parts of the world that would ensure that the research activities of the
25 university are functioning at current global standards; and

26 (f) Outreach activities that allow the students, faculty, and research staff to
27 apply the new knowledge they generate to address specific social development
28 problems broadly defined.

29 The CHED, through its regional office, shall regularly provide technical
30 assistance to the BASSU and monitor its compliance with the requirements of the
31 Commission.

1 The BASSC shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of this Act until it is
2 able to comply with the requirements provided herein.

3 **Sec. 24. *Parity Clause.*** - All other powers, functions, and privileges,
4 responsibilities and limitations to state universities and their officials under existing
5 laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the BASSU and its officials,
6 whenever appropriate.

7 **Sec. 25. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
8 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the BASSC.
9 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and
10 maintenance of the BASSU shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
11 Act.

12 **Sec. 26. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from
13 the effectivity of this Act, the DOST, in consultation with concerned agencies and
14 other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
15 for the effective implementation of this Act.

16 **Sec. 27. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of
17 this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
18 affected thereby shall remain in full force effect.

19 **Sec. 28. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
20 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with provisions of this Act are
21 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,