



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

SEP 04 2019

**THE HONORABLE SENATE PRESIDENT
and Members of the Senate**

Senate of the Philippines
GSIS Building, Financial Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Section 27(1), Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, I am returning herewith without my signature the consolidated enrolled **Senate Bill No. 2124 / House Bill No. 9023**, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED 1341, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE CHARTER OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES.””

While I recognize the noble objective of the measure to promote, foster, nurture, and protect the right of all citizens to accessible quality education, I have serious reservations on the suitability of the means chosen to attain this end, namely, granting the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) the status of a national polytechnic university, with all the benefits and privileges such status entails. I cannot disregard the fact that the PUP, despite its stature in our education sector, is but one of many state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the country. As such, its proposed designation as national polytechnic university needs to be reassessed in light of its current performance ranking among other SUCs. The comparative performance of its satellite campuses and extension programs needs to be similarly evaluated before granting the PUP system as a whole such privileged status.

A reassessment is all the more needful considering that the enrolled bill provides for the grant of fiscal autonomy to PUP, which departs from the adopted policy of granting only institutional autonomy to SUCs. The proposed provision on appropriations would also have a significant fiscal impact on the government, which may be avoided only if the PUP budget would continue to be subject to the need for prioritization and the usual budgetary and monitoring processes.

These concerns taken together put in question the suitability of the passage of the measure at this time.

In view of these considerations, I am constrained to veto the above mentioned Enrolled Bill.

Very truly yours,



Copy furnished:

Speaker Alan Peter S. Cayetano
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang, Manila

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



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