



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8800

BY REPRESENTATIVES UNICO, PANOTES, JAVIER, HOFER,
ZAMORA (M.C.), SUANSING (E.), NIETO AND SY-ALVARADO,
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1035

AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMARINES NORTE STATE
COLLEGE (CNSC) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAET,
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE INTO A STATE
UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF
CAMARINES NORTE (UCN), 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 Camarines Norte State College
2 (CNSC) in the Municipality of Daet, Province of Camarines Norte,
3 is hereby converted into a state university to be known as the
4 University of Camarines Norte (UCN), hereinafter referred to as
5 the University. It shall establish regular campuses in the
6 Municipalities of Abaña, Mercedes, Labo, Jose Panganiban, Etienza,
7 and Sta. Elena, all in the Province of Camarines Norte. Its main
8 campus shall be in the Municipality of Daet.

9 SEC. 2. *General Mandate.* – The University shall primarily
10 provide advance education, higher technological and professional
11 vocational instruction and training in the fields of arts and sciences,

1 education, economics, agriculture and fisheries, industrial
2 technology and engineering, information technology, business
3 management and accountancy, tourism and hospitality
4 management, environmental management, forestry, criminology,
5 maritime education, medical education, health sciences, legal
6 education, nontraditional courses and other related fields of study.
7 It shall also undertake research, extension services, and production
8 activities in support of the development of the Province of
9 Camarines Norte and in Region V and provide progressive
10 leadership in its areas of specialization.

11 SEC. 3. *Curricular Offerings.* – The University shall offer
12 undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of arts and
13 sciences, teacher education, agriculture and fisheries, industrial
14 technology and engineering, information technology, business
15 management and accountancy, medical education, health sciences,
16 economics, legal education, tourism and hospitality management,
17 environmental management, forestry, maritime education,
18 criminology, as well as technical-vocational programs and
19 nontraditional courses within its areas of competency and
20 specialization, and as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to
21 carry out its objectives, and meet the human resource development
22 needs of the Province of Camarines Norte and Region V.

23 The University may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory
24 school under its College of Education.

25 SEC. 4. *Administration.* – The University shall have the
26 general powers of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa
27 Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as “The Corporation Code of
28 the Philippines”. The administration of the University and the

1 exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the
2 Board of Regents and the President of the University.

3 *SEC. 5. The Governing Board.* – The Governing Board of the
4 University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as
5 the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson
6 of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the President
7 of the University, respectively, and with the following as members:

8 (a) Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and
9 Culture of the Senate;

10 (b) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical
11 Education of the House of Representatives;

12 (c) Regional Director of the National Economic and
13 Development Authority (NEDA);

14 (d) Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA);

15 (e) Regional Director of the Department of Science and
16 Technology (DOST);

17 (f) President of the federation of faculty associations of the
18 University;

19 (g) President of the federation of student councils of the
20 University;

21 (h) President of the federation of alumni associations of the
22 University; and

23 (i) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who
24 have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of
25 specialization.

26 The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from a
27 list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of
28 Camarines Norte, as recommended by the search committee

1 constituted by the University President, in consultation with the
2 Chairperson of the CHED and the other members of the Board,
3 based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position.

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

6 Membership in the Governing Board of the President of the
7 federation of faculty associations, the President of the federation of
8 student councils, and the President of the federation of alumni
9 associations shall be coterminous with their terms of office as
10 provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

11 SEC. 6. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.* – The
12 Board shall have the following specific powers and duties, in
13 addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of
14 all the powers granted to the Board of Directors of a corporation
15 under existing laws:

16 (a) Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the
17 declared State policies and the provisions of the Constitution on
18 education, agriculture, science and technology, as well as the
19 policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act
20 No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;

21 (b) Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules
22 of discipline drawn by the Administrative and the Academic
23 Councils herein provided;

24 (c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the
25 University, the vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of the
26 campuses, faculty members and other officials and employees of the
27 University;

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

10 (e) Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges,
11 such as matriculation fees, graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as
12 the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with
13 the concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including government
14 subsidies and other income generated by the University, shall
15 constitute its special trust funds, and shall be deposited in any
16 authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall
17 accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of
18 the University; any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to
19 the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the
20 University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the
21 operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by
22 the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction,
23 research, extension services or other programs and projects of the
24 University: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for
25 the specific purposes for which these are collected: *Provided*,
26 *however*, That, if for reasons beyond its control, the University shall
27 not be able to pursue any project for which the funds have been
28 appropriated and allocated under its approved program of

1 expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any
2 reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and
3 urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the
4 University;

5 (f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and
6 other school fees for greater access of poor but deserving students in
7 accordance with Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to
8 Quality Tertiary Education Act";

9 (g) Establish professorial chairs in the University and provide
10 fellowships for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to
11 deserving students;

12 (h) Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for
13 the support of the University in the manner it may determine, in its
14 discretion, in order to carry out the purposes and functions of the
15 University;

16 (i) Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;

17 (j) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of
18 their outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public
19 service, arts, science and technology, agriculture or any field of
20 specialization within the academic competency of the University,
21 and authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of
22 nondegree and nontraditional courses;

23 (k) Establish research and extension centers to promote the
24 development of the University;

25 (l) Develop academic arrangements for institutional
26 capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies,
27 whether public, private, local or foreign, and appoint

1 experts/specialists as consultants, part-time/visiting/exchange
2 professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

3 (m) Adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting
4 knowledge for the promotion of greater access to education such as
5 the use of information technology, dual training system, open
6 distance learning, and community laboratory;

7 (n) Collaborate with the governing boards of the state
8 universities and colleges (SUCs) within the Province of Camarines
9 Norte and Region V, under the supervision of the CHED and in
10 consultation with the Department of Budget and Management
11 (DBM), in restructuring the University to make it more efficient,
12 relevant, productive and competitive;

13 (o) Absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the
14 Province of Camarines Norte and Region V, as branches and
15 external centers, in coordination with the CHED and in
16 consultation with the DBM, and offer therein programs or courses
17 to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities,
18 as mandated by the Constitution;

19 (p) Authorize an external management audit of the
20 University, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and
21 regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA), and institute
22 reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of
23 the audit results and recommendations;

24 (q) Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages
25 with local government units (LGUs), public, private, local and
26 foreign institutions and agencies, in the furtherance of the purposes
27 and objectives of the University;

1 (r) Import economic, technical and cultural books and
2 publications;

3 (s) Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for
4 the profitable development and management of the economic assets
5 of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the
6 development and strengthening of the University;

7 (t) Receive, in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and
8 personal properties of all kinds and administer and dispose of the
9 same, when necessary, for the benefit of the University, and subject
10 to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any;

11 (u) Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings,
12 machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and
13 acquisition of real property, including the necessary supplies,
14 materials and equipment;

15 (v) Extend the term of the President of the University beyond
16 the age of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based
17 on the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board:
18 *Provided*, That the President's performance has been rated by the
19 Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation has been
20 decided by the search committee;

21 (w) Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the
22 President and other officials of the University, as it may deem
23 appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the
24 University;

25 (x) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for
26 participative decision-making and transparency within the
27 University;

1 (y) Where most advantageous to the University, privatize the
2 management of nonacademic services such as health, food, building
3 or grounds or property maintenance, and such other similar
4 activities; and

5 (z) Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to
6 carry out the purposes and functions of the University.

7 SEC. 7. *Meetings of the Board.* – The Board shall regularly
8 convene once every three (3) months. The Chairperson of the Board
9 may call a special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That
10 members are notified in writing at least three (3) days prior to the
11 conduct of said meeting.

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

16 The Chairperson of the CHED shall designate a
17 Commissioner as representative in the meeting with all the rights
18 and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That during the
19 meeting, the President of the University as the Vice-Chairperson
20 shall be the Presiding Officer: *Provided, further*, That this *proviso*
21 notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby
22 authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular chair
23 of the Board, in which case said CHED Commissioner shall act as
24 the Presiding Officer.

25 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on
26 Education, Arts and Culture and the House Committee on Higher
27 and Technical Education will not be able to attend the Board
28 meeting, they may designate their respective representatives to

1 attend the meeting, who shall have the same rights and
2 responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

3 The members of the Board shall not receive any salary, but
4 shall be entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary
5 expenses incurred, either in their attendance in the meetings of the
6 Board or in connection with other official business authorized by
7 resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

8 SEC. 8. *The University President.* – The University shall be
9 headed by a President, who shall render full-time service and shall
10 be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications
11 and standards set by the Board, upon the recommendation of a duly
12 constituted search committee. The University President shall have
13 a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for
14 another term: *Provided*, That in order to effect a smooth transition
15 of the CNSC to a state university, the incumbent President of the
16 CNSC shall serve as the first President of the University.

17 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of
18 office of the incumbent President of the University, the Board shall
19 constitute a Search Committee for the Presidency.

20 The Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the
21 University in case of vacancy in the Office of the President by
22 reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for
23 cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the
24 office, pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided*, That
25 the OIC shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term.

26 The powers and duties of the President of the University, in
27 addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those

1 usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar state
2 universities and those delegated by the Board.

3 The salary of the President of the University shall be in
4 accordance with Republic Act No. 6758 or the "Compensation and
5 Position Classification Act of 1989", as modified by Joint Resolution
6 No. 4 dated June 17, 2009, and by such other laws amendatory
7 thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable
8 to that being received by the presidents of similar state educational
9 institutions.

10 The President of the University shall be assisted by a
11 Vice President for Academic Affairs, a Vice President for
12 Administration, and a Vice President for Research and
13 Development, Extension Services and Training, who shall be
14 appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President.

15 SEC. 9. *The Secretary of the University.* - The Board shall
16 appoint a Secretary who shall serve as such for both the Board and
17 the University, and who shall keep all the records and proceedings
18 of the Board. The Secretary of the University shall serve upon each
19 member of the Board the appropriate notice of Board meetings.

20 SEC. 10. *The Treasurer of the University.* - The Treasurer of
21 the Philippines shall be the *ex officio* treasurer of the University.

22 SEC. 11. *The Administrative Council.* - There shall be an
23 Administrative Council consisting of the President of the University
24 as Chairperson, vice presidents, deans, directors and other
25 officials of equal rank, as members, whose duty shall be to
26 review and recommend to the Board the policies that shall govern
27 the administration, management and development planning of the
28 University.

1 SEC. 12. *The Academic Council.* – There shall be an
2 Academic Council to be composed of the President of the University,
3 who shall act as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank
4 of at least an assistant professor, as members.

5 The Academic Council shall have the power to review and
6 recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the
7 University, subject to the approval of the Board. It shall fix the
8 requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their
9 graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to review and
10 approval by the Board through the President of the University. It
11 shall exercise disciplinary power over students of the University
12 and shall formulate academic policies, and rules and regulations on
13 discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

14 SEC. 13. *Heads of University Campuses.* – The Campus
15 Directors shall serve as heads or administrators of the University
16 campuses and shall render full-time service.

17 They shall be appointed or designated by the Board, upon the
18 recommendation of the Search Committee and the President,
19 subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the
20 Board: *Provided*, That the incumbent Campus Directors of the
21 existing campuses of the CNSC shall serve as Campus Directors of
22 their respective campuses upon the effectivity of this Act.

23 SEC. 14. *The Faculty.* – No political beliefs, gender
24 preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor
25 religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the
26 appointment of faculty members of the University: *Provided*, That
27 said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications
28 and standards set by the Board: *Provided, further*, That no member

1 of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church, faith
2 or religious sector.

3 SEC. 15. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* –
4 The University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional
5 autonomy, pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the
6 Constitution.

7 SEC. 16. *Admission/Scholarship Programs.* – No student
8 shall be denied admission to the University by reason of sex, faith,
9 cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin. The University
10 shall provide scholarship programs and other affirmative action
11 programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for
12 admission to the University.

13 SEC. 17. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus/
14 Equipment/Supplies and Detail of Personnel.* – The heads of the
15 bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby
16 authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the President of
17 the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be
18 needed by the University, and detail employees for duty therein
19 when, in the judgment of the head of the bureau or office, such
20 apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be
21 spared without serious detriment to public service.

22 The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as
23 required of them by the President of the University and the time
24 thus served shall be counted as part of their regular service.

25 SEC. 18. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* – All assets, real
26 and personal, personnel and records of the CNSC, as well as its
27 liabilities or obligations, are hereby transferred to the University:
28 *Provided,* That the positions, rights and security of tenure of the

1 faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing
2 laws prior to the conversion into a University shall be respected:
3 *Provided, further,* That the incumbents of the positions shall remain
4 in the same status until otherwise provided for by the Board:
5 *Provided, finally,* That the University shall also include an upgrade
6 or increase in its human resource component.

7 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by
8 the CNSC are hereby declared to be property of the University, and
9 shall be titled under its name: *Provided,* That should the University
10 cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels
11 of land be no longer needed by the University, the same shall revert
12 to the concerned LGU or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the
13 case may be.

14 SEC. 19. *Tax Exemption on Importation and Donations.* –
15 The importation of economic, technical and cultural books or
16 publications, which is for economic, technical, vocational, scientific,
17 philosophical, historical or cultural purposes, made by the
18 University upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from
19 customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic
20 Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization
21 and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

22 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations and
23 contributions made to the University, to be used actually, directly,
24 and exclusively by it, shall be exempt from the donor’s tax and the
25 same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross
26 income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the
27 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

1 SEC. 20. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.* – The
2 provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the conversion of the
3 institution into a state university shall become effective only upon
4 the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the
5 recommendation of a panel of experts it shall constitute for the
6 purpose, that the institution has complied with the requirements for
7 a university status based on CHED Memorandum Order No. 46,
8 series of 2012 (Policy-Standard to Enhance Quality Assurance in
9 Philippine Higher Education through an Outcomes-Based and
10 Typology-Based Quality Assurance): *Provided*, That the panel may
11 issue such recommendation when the institution has substantially
12 complied with the requirements for the grant of university status.

13 The following requirements for a university, as established by
14 the CHED, shall be complied with:

15 (a) Faculty members shall possess relevant degrees in their
16 areas of specialization, as required by the CHED, and shall have
17 participated in research and development activities in their
18 respective disciplines, as evidenced by refereed publications and
19 other scholarly outputs;

20 (b) The University shall offer a comprehensive range of
21 degree programs which should be in place in all levels, from basic
22 post-secondary to doctoral programs;

23 (c) The University shall have conducted viable research
24 programs in specific disciplinal and multidisciplinary areas of study
25 that produce new knowledge, as evidenced by refereed publications,
26 citations, inventions, and patents, among others;

27 (d) The University shall possess comprehensive learning
28 resources and support structures such as libraries, practicum

1 laboratories, relevant educational resources, and linkages with
2 relevant disciplinary and professional sectors so as to allow students
3 to explore basic, advanced, and even cutting-edge knowledge in a
4 wide range of disciplines or professions should be provided by the
5 University;

6 (e) The University shall maintain linkages and affiliation
7 with other research institutions in various parts of the world to
8 ensure that the research activities of the University are functioning
9 at current global standards; and

10 (f) The University shall conduct outreach activities to allow
11 the students, faculty, and research staff to apply the new knowledge
12 they generate to address specific social development problems.

13 The CHED, through its regional office, shall regularly provide
14 technical assistance to the institution and monitor compliance with
15 the requirements of the Commission.

16 The institution shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of
17 this Act until it is able to comply with the requirements provided
18 herein.

19 SEC. 21. *Development Plan, Management Audit,*
20 *Organizational/Administrative/Academic Structure.* – Within a
21 period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this
22 Act, the University shall accomplish the following:

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

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

1 (c) Set up the organizational, administrative, as well as
2 academic structure, including the appointment of key officials of the
3 University.

4 SEC. 22. *Filing of Report.* – On or before the fifteenth (15th)
5 day of the second month after opening of the regular classes each
6 year, the Board shall file with the Office of the President of the
7 Philippines and both Houses of Congress, through the CHED
8 Chairperson, a detailed report on the progress, conditions and needs
9 of the University.

10 SEC. 23. *Suppletory Application.* – The provisions of
11 Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education
12 Modernization Act of 1997”, shall be an integral part of this Act and
13 shall serve as part of the Governing Charter of the University.

14 SEC. 24. *Parity Clause.* – All other powers, functions and
15 privileges, responsibilities and limitations to state universities and
16 their officials under existing laws shall be deemed granted to
17 or imposed upon the University and its officials, whenever
18 appropriate.

19 SEC. 25. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry
20 out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current
21 year’s appropriations of the CNSC. Thereafter, such sums as may be
22 necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the
23 University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
24 Act.

25 SEC. 26. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within
26 sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall, in
27 consultation with the CHED, formulate the rules and regulations to
28 fully implement the provisions of this Act.

1 SEC. 27. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part
2 or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the
3 remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force
4 and effect.

5 SEC. 28. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees,
6 executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or
7 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
8 modified accordingly.

9 SEC. 29. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
10 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper
11 of general circulation.

Approved,

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