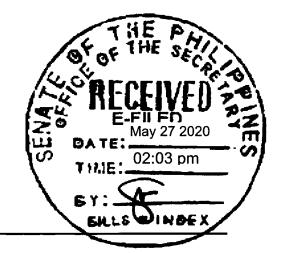
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S.B. NO. 1555

Introduced by SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN BALANGA CITY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "BALANGA CITY TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

The Province of Bataan is rapidly developing. The availability or access to education is the foundation of the development of the human capital of any country. The quality of a country's human capital, which is nurtured through education, determines the course of its national development. Likewise, access to education should be inclusive to ensure the equitable spread of these learning programmes. Remote areas in the country should have equal access to these learning opportunities.

The establishment of a training and assessment center will help develop and enhance the current and upcoming industries of the Bataan and promote other technical-vocational programs. Further, this would be a great opportunity for the residents of Bataan to become more self-reliant, productive, and competitive in the skills market.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

IMEE R. MARCOS

Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Balanga City TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act"

Section 2. *Establishment.* – There is hereby established a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in Balanga City, Province of Bataan, to be known as the Balanga City TESDA Training and Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center. It shall be established in a highly accessible location in Barangay Tenejero, Balanga City, Province of Bataan, pursuant to the purposes of this Act and to the mutual agreement between TESDA and the concerned local government units (LGUs)

Section 3. *General Mandate.* – The Center shall primarily provide technical-vocational education training (TVET) programs to students and local residents from low-income families and out-of-school youths, including persons with disabilities and indigenous people, in Balanga City and the neighboring localities in the Province of Bataan, to help them become productive, self-reliant and globally competitive labor assets.

The Center shall offer training programs on relevant skills trade competencies, craftmanship, and entrepreneurship activities needed to deliver the effective employment interventions that will hasten the development of the host area and the adjacent localities in the Province of Bataan into a human resource and productivity hubs.

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The Center shall serve as TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired competencies in TVET programs in Balanga City and adjacent localities in the Province of Bataan. It shall also provide teachers' training and curriculum design assistance to the secondary school offering the technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the K to 12 Program in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the TESDA.

Section 4. *Training Programs*. – The Center shall offer short-term certificate courses and modular trainings in preferred technical-vocational skills and trades specialization. To this end, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National and Economic Development Authority (NEDA), business-industry partners, and other relevant agencies and instrumentalities, both local and international, shall provide the necessary assistance to enable the Center to develop skilled manpower to achieve a robust and inclusive economy in the host areas and adjacent localities.

The Center may establish research and technology hubs, technology development farms, satellite or extension training centers, and promote mobile training programs to strengthen linkages among the industry partners and the academe geared towards the acquisition of practical livelihood, employable skills, gainful employment, and entrepreneurship in priority areas in Balanga City and neighboring localities in the Province of Bataan

The Center shall offer the following TVET programs with competencies assessment leading to at least National Certification Levels I-III:

a. Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics and operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;

b. Agriculture and aquaculture-related training and farm skills development in such areas as farming and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm, fishing tools and equipment operations, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolks' trainings for increased productivity and entrepreneurship;

c. Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and

crafts, workmanship and designing, high-speed sewing, dress-making and tailoring, horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking, including baking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;

- d. Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, practical accountancy, bookkeeping and office procedures, business processes and application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-based business operation, and use of social media business marketing;
- e. Technical-vocational occupation and trades and skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing, welding, construction, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing, personal computer (PC) servicing, and such other relevant practical skills courses;
- f. Computer literacy and information technology (IT)-related skills, digital technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design, and advertising;
- g. Tourism and hospitality-related courses involving hotel, restaurant and tourism development management, including social communication skills training, development and language proficiency course in English and other languages for business process outsourcing (BPO) employment, and other overseas job placement;
- h. Seminars on personality development, career counseling and job placement, work ethics and values; and
- i. Other priority skills and trades training that may be needed by the people of Balanga City and of the adjacent localities of the Province of Bataan to enhance their capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurial activities.

Section 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements. – The provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the Center shall become operational only upon determination and declaration of the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and certificate of compliance that the Center has individually and satisfactorily complied with the minimum requirements for quality standards prescribed by TESDA.

Section 6. *Administration.* – The Center shall be headed by a Technical Vocational Administrator, under the supervision of the TESDA, who shall render full-time services and be responsible for the administration and operation of the Center.

The Technical-Vocational Administrator of the Center shall be appointed by the TESDA Director General in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the qualification requirements for such office.

The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall enter into agreements with locally-based private and public counterpart agencies or instrumentalities and persons, subject to the approval of the TESDA Director General, for such assistance as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act.

Section 7. *Appropriations*. – The Director General of the TESDA shall include the Authority's program the operation of the Center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The LGU concern, in consultation with the TESDA, shall likewise set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support the operation of the Center herein established.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DOST, DA, Department of Budget and Management, DILG, NEDA, concerned LGU, and such other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host locality shall prepare and issue the necessary regulations for the implementation of this Act.

Section 9. Separability Clause. – In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended 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.

Approved,