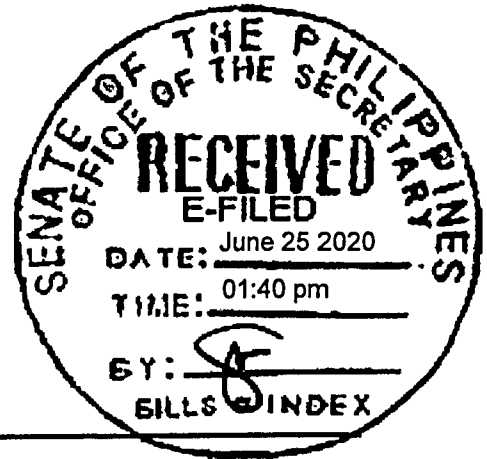


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1639



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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE USM-KABACAN, COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

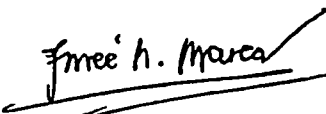
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees 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. Education is a fundamental right of every Filipino. It plays a significant role in the growth and upliftment of lives.

On March 13, 1978, President Ferdinand E. Marcos signed the Presidential Decree No. 1312 which converted the Mindanao Institute of Technology (MIT) into University of Southern Mindanao. As University, the USM functions were mandated to have a trilogy of functions: instruction, research, and extension. The three functions later expanded to four: instruction, research, extension, and resource generation.

The intent of this bill is the establishment of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training and Assessment Center in the USM, situated in the Municipality of Kabacan, Province of Cotabato, to be known as the USM-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center. Furthermore, this initiative will help provide students with the right technical skills to become an innovative citizen of the country.

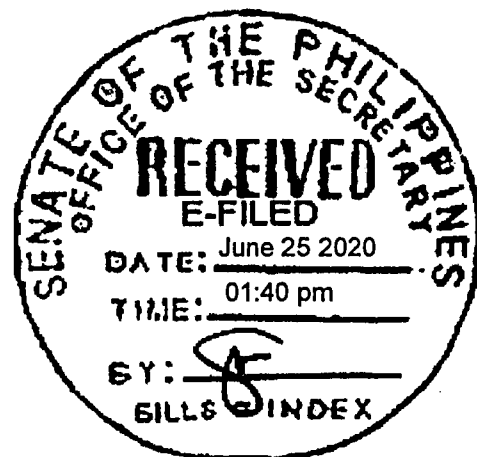
The speedy passage of this bill is therefore earnestly requested.



**IMEE R. MARCOS**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE USM-KABACAN, COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*University of Southern*  
2           *Mindanao (USM)-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act.*"

3           **Sec. 2. Establishment.** – There is hereby established a Technical Education and  
4           Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training and Assessment Center in the  
5           University of Southern Mindanao (USM), Municipality of Kabacan, Province of  
6           Cotabato, under the supervision of the TESDA, to be known as the USM-Kabacan,  
7           Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center.

8           **Sec. 3. General Mandate.** – The USM-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and  
9           Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall primarily provide  
10          technical-vocational education and training (TVET) programs to students, local  
11          residents from low-income families, and out-of-school youths, including persons with  
12          disabilities and indigenous peoples, in the Municipality of Kabacan and adjacent  
13          localities in the Province of Cotabato, to help them become productive, self-reliant and  
14          globally competitive labor assets.

15          The University-based Center shall offer training programs on relevant skills  
16          trade competencies, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship activities needed to deliver  
17          the effective employment interventions that will hasten the development of the host  
18          area and adjacent localities in the Province of Cotabato into human resource and  
19          productivity hubs.

20          The Center shall serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired  
21          competencies in TVET programs in the host locality of Kabacan, its sixteen (16)  
22          adjacent municipalities, and the capital city of Kidapawan, Province of Cotabato. It

1 shall also provide teachers' training and curriculum design assistance to the secondary  
2 schools offering the technical-vocational livelihood track under the K to 12 Program in  
3 coordination with the Department of Education and the TESDA.

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

14 The Center may establish research and technology hubs, technology  
15 development farms, satellite or extension training centers, and promote mobile  
16 training programs to strengthen linkages among the industry partners, the academe,  
17 and the Center geared towards the acquisition of practical livelihood, employable skills,  
18 gainful employment, and entrepreneurship in priority areas in the Municipality of  
19 Kabacan and neighboring localities in the Province of Cotabato.

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

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

26 (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such  
27 areas as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and  
28 home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm, fishing tools  
29 and equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and innovations,  
30 and relevant farmers and fisherfolk's trainings for increased productivity and  
31 entrepreneurship;

32 (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and  
33 small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts,  
34 workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture,  
35 livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary  
36 arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;

37 (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing,  
38 practical accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and  
39 application procedures, including registration, licensing, documentation, business  
40 patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment  
41 opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-based business  
42 operation, and use of social media business marketing;

43 (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry,  
44 masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive

1 servicing, electronics servicing, personal computer (PC) servicing, and such other  
2 relevant practical skills courses;

3 (f) Computer literacy and information technology (IT)-related skills, digital  
4 technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design,  
5 and advertising;

6 (g) Social communication skills and language proficiency courses in English and  
7 other languages for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job  
8 placement;

9 (h) Seminars on personality development, career counseling, job placement,  
10 and work ethic and values; and

11 i) Other preferred skills and trades training that may be needed by the people  
12 of the Municipality of Kabacan and adjacent localities of the Province of Cotabato to  
13 enhance their capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment, and  
14 entrepreneurial activities.

15 **Sec. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act  
16 notwithstanding, the Center shall become operational only upon determination and  
17 certification by the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and  
18 certificate of compliance, that the Center has satisfactorily complied with the minimum  
19 requirements for quality standards prescribed by the TESDA governing the following  
20 competency assessment:

21 (a) Standard procedures and guidelines (SPGS) for the establishment and  
22 operation of a Center;

23 (b) Operational sustainability of the Center, in terms of licensed faculty-trainers  
24 and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials,  
25 and other standard requirements of a Center,

26 (c) Sustainable funding source and allocation of the budgetary requirement;

27 (d) Assurance that the training programs offered are fully aligned with the  
28 minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-vocational skills  
29 technology and the needs of the host area and adjacent communities served in the  
30 context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Integration and the  
31 Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) for TVET; and

32 (e) Compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and standards, as may  
33 be necessary and applicable in establishing a Center.

34 The TESDA and the USM shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)  
35 authorizing the establishment and operation of the Center inside the USM Campus:  
36 Provided, That the USM Board of Regents will pass a resolution approving the Center:  
37 Provided, further, That both the TESDA and the USM are in full accord with their  
38 respective obligations pursuant to the purposes of the Center under this Act.

39 **Sec. 6. Administration.** – The Center shall be headed by a Technical-Vocational  
40 Administrator, under the supervision of the TESDA, who shall render full-time service  
41 and be responsible for its administration and operation.

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

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

8 **Sec. 7. Appropriations.** – The TESDA Director General shall include in the  
9 Authority's program the operation of the Center, the funding of which shall be included  
10 in the annual General appropriations Act.

11 The USM and the local government units (LGUS) concerned, in consultation  
12 with the TESDA, shall set aside from any available revenue an amount deemed  
13 appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support the operation of the Center herein  
14 established.

15 **Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after  
16 the approval of this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DOST,  
17 DA, Department of Budget and Management, DILG, NEDA, concerned LGUs`, USM,  
18 and such other relevant agencies and industry-business partners, prepare and issue  
19 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective 2 implementation of this Act.

20 **Sec. 9. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this  
21 Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof  
22 shall not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

23 **Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions,  
24 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are  
25 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved,*