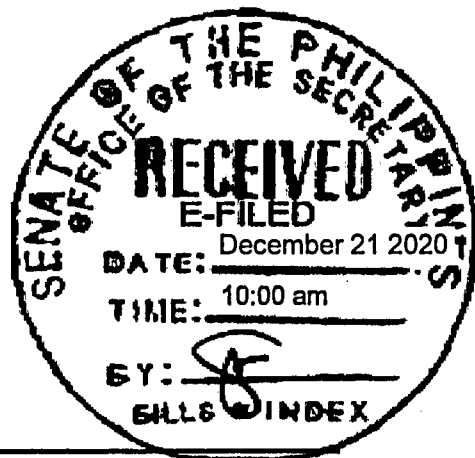


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1960



Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BALICUATRO COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEN, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, INTO THE
NORTHERN SAMAR POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Specifically on education, Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution mandates:
"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."

This bill seeks to convert the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades (BCAT) in Allen, Northern Samar into the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute.

Balicuatro is the area in the northwestern part of Samar Island.¹ Situated in Northern Samar, it consists of the mainland municipalities of Allen, Lavezares, San Isidro and Victoria and the island towns of San Antonio, Capul, and San Vicente. Allen, where BCAT is located, is 44 kilometers from Catarman, the provincial capital of the province.

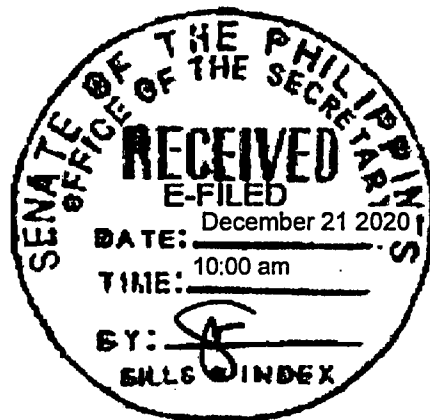
The conversion to a Polytechnic Institute will provide the people of Northern Samar relevant technical and vocational programs. It will result in diverse employment opportunities in domestic and international labor markets. Further, this will highly contribute as an economic stimulus in the province.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

¹ Northern Samar is one of the three provinces into which Samar island is divided, the other two being Samar and Eastern Samar. The island is the third biggest in the Philippine archipelago, next only to Luzon and Mindanao.

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Northern Samar
2 Polytechnic Institute (NSPI) Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Conversion.** – The Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades in the
5 Municipality of Allen, Province of Northern Samar, is hereby converted into a polytechnic
6 institute, to be known as the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute (NSPI), hereinafter
7 referred to as the Institute, under the supervision and administration of the Technical
8 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It shall be established in a highly
9 accessible location in the Municipality of Allen, Province of Northern Samar, pursuant to
10 the purposes of this Act, and to the mutual agreement of the TESDA and the concerned
11 local government unit (LGU).

12 **SEC. 3. General Mandate** – In line with the adoption of the Philippine
13 Qualifications Framework (PQF) and the Senior High School Program of the Department
14 of Education (DepEd), the Institute shall endeavor to restructure its technical-vocational
15 education and training (TVET) curricular programs to make them responsive to the rapidly
16 changing demands of the industry and the labor market in both the domestic and global
17 fronts, and within the context of the mutual recognition arrangements embodied in the
18 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic integration framework and
19 other relevant international agreements for technical-vocational education.

20 The Institute shall endeavor to offer higher level competency qualifications in TVET
21 programs and shall continue to upgrade its curricular standards as a TESDA polytechnic
22 educational institution that caters to wide-ranging specialized technical, creative and
23 conceptual knowledge and skills demonstrating depth and complexity in the planning,
24 evaluation, initiation and management of approaches to competency compliant technical
25 skills and functional knowledge application.
26

27 The institute shall offer a wide array of one (1)-year to three (3)-year TESDA-
28 registered TVET programs and certificate courses, and shall aim to meet the competency
29 requirements under Level V of the PQF, which is the Diploma Level in TVET. It shall

1 primarily provide undergraduate technical-vocational education, and shall likewise ensure
2 the provision of various skills trainings and trade specialization courses relevant to the
3 needs of the province, specifically geared towards the acquisition of employable skills,
4 gainful employment, practical livelihood and entrepreneurship.

5 The Institute shall play a lead role in helping students and out-of-school youths
6 and residents from low-income families and persons with disabilities in the Municipality of
7 Allen and adjacent municipalities in the Province of Northern Samar become productive
8 and self-reliant, and to become part of a globally competitive middle to high-level skilled
9 labor force to hasten the social and economic development of the Province of Northern
10 Samar, in particular, as well as meet the manpower needs of both local and international
11 labor markets, in general.

12 The Institute shall consider in the design of relevant TVET training programs and
13 course offerings a competency assessment of the socioeconomic profile, employment
14 conditions and opportunities, business climate, market and industry potentials, resources
15 available and presence of support structures, including the literacy level and skills
16 readiness, and the overall development needs of the host area, Allen, and adjacent
17 communities within the operational radius of the Institute. It shall likewise consider the
18 relevant skills and trade competencies, craftsmanship training programs and
19 entrepreneurship activities needed to deliver the effective employment and development
20 interventions required to make Allen and all localities comprising the Province of Northern
21 Samar human resource and economic productivity hubs.

22 The Institute shall also serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for
23 acquired competencies in technical-vocational skills in the entire Province of Northern
24 Samar.

25
26 Priority admission to the Institute, including scholarships, grants-in-aid and student
27 financial assistance, however, shall be given to the most disadvantaged citizens of the
28 Municipality of Allen and to the most economically depressed areas in the province.

29 Further, as deemed necessary and practicable, in coordination with the DepEd and
30 the TESDA, the Institute shall render relevant teacher's training assistance and curriculum
31 design offering the technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the DepEd and TESDA
32 in the communities and areas within the operational radius of the Institute.

33 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offering/Training Programs.** –The Institute shall offer one
34 (1)-year to three (3) year diploma courses and undergraduate certificate, including short-
35 term courses and modular trainings in diverse relevant technical-vocational and industrial
36 technology education to comply with employment standards in preferred market-driven
37 labor opportunities, but shall give premium efforts, however, to skills specialization for
38 local market employment requirements geared towards achieving the development needs
39 for a robust inclusive economy of the Municipality of Allen and the other municipalities in
40 the Province of Northern Samar, in coordination with the Department of Labor and
41 Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of the
42 Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development
43 Authority, business-industry partners, and such other relevant agencies.

44 The Institute may establish research and technology hubs, mobile training
45 programs, and satellite or extension training centers in priority areas throughout the
46 Province of Northern Samar to strengthen linkages among industry, the academe, and
47 the technology programs of the Institute. It shall likewise adopt the use of innovative
48 training modes such as information technology-assisted instruction, dual learning system,

1 open distance learning, community laboratory and such other instructional programs to
2 afford the community greater access to TVET and other skills training programs.
3

4 The Institute shall offer TESDA-registered TVET courses and short-term training
5 programs. Course completion in these programs shall be credited through skills
6 competency assessment under National Certification (NC) Levels I to V, as applicable, and
7 shall further qualify for academic recognition under the Ladderized Interface System for
8 tertiary education, if compliant with the requirements under said program.

9 The Institute shall offer skills development options for higher competency
10 qualifications in technical-industrial education, trade technology, tourism, agricultural
11 technology, business literacy, and innovation in TESDA-registered skills courses as
12 follows:

- 13 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and
14 steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation,
15 automotive mechanical assembly, refrigeration and air conditioning,
16 electronics, and operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills
17 grade and industrial purposes;
18
- 19 (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such
20 areas as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming
21 and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm
22 tools and equipment operation, agribusiness and agri-aqua trade technology
23 and innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolks' trainings for increased
24 productivity and entrepreneurship;
25
- 26 (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and
27 small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and
28 crafts, workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and
29 tailoring, horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing
30 technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking,
31 cosmetology, and health and wellness training;
32
- 33 (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, practical
34 accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and
35 application procedures, including registration, licensing, documentation,
36 business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and
37 investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-
38 based business operation, and use of social media business marketing;
39
- 40 (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry,
41 plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing,
42 electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and such other related
43 technical skills courses;
44
- 45 (f) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, digital technology,
46 web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design and
47 advertising;
48
- 49 (g) Social communication skills development and language proficiency courses in
50 English and other languages for business process outsourcing employment and
51 overseas job placement;

1 (h) Seminars in personality development, career counseling and job placement,
2 work ethics and values;

3
4 (i) Other preferred priority skills that may be needed by the people of Allen and
5 relevant to the needs of the other service areas in the Province of Northern Samar
6 to enhance their capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment and
7 entrepreneurship skills.

8 **Section 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** - The provisions of this
9 Act notwithstanding, the conversion of the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades into the
10 Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute shall become operationally effective only upon the
11 determination and declaration of the TESDA through the issuance of a formal
12 recommendation and Certificate of Compliance that the Institute has satisfactorily
13 complied with the minimum requirements for standards of quality prescribed by the
14 TESDA governing the following:

15
16 (a) Standard procedures and guidelines for the establishment, or conversion and
17 operation of a polytechnic institute;

18
19 (b) Operational sustainability of the Institute in terms of licensed faculty/trainors
20 and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional
21 materials, and other standard requirements as an Institute;

22
23 (c) Sustainable funding source and allocation of budget requirement of the
24 Institute;

25
26 (d) Full alignment of the training programs offered with the minimum standards of
27 competency-based quality technical-vocational skills technology and needs of
28 the host municipality, Allen, and adjacent areas served within the context of
29 the PQF and ASEAN framework for technical-vocational education; and

30
31 (e) Compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities as may be necessary and
32 applicable in its conversion into the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute.

33 **Section 6. Administration.** - The Institute shall be headed by a School
34 Superintendent under the supervision of the TESDA and appointed by the TESDA Director
35 General in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and
36 the qualification requirements and standards for such office.

37
38 The School Superintendent shall render full-time services and be responsible for
39 the administration and operation of the Institute.

40
41 The academic and administrative staff of the Institute shall be organized according
42 to the staffing pattern prescribed by the TESDA for such type of schools pursuant to
43 existing laws, rules and regulations.

44 **Section 7. Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.** - All assets, fixed and movable,
45 personnel, records and documents of the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades, as well
46 as its liabilities or obligations shall be transferred to the Institute: *Provided*, That the
47 positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty and personnel therein employed
48 pursuant to existing laws prior to its conversion into the Institute shall not be impaired.

49
50 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the Balicuatro College
51 of Arts and Trades are hereby declared property of the Northern Samar Polytechnic

1 Institute and shall be titled under that name: *Provided*, That, should the Institute cease
2 to exist or such aforementioned parcels of land may no longer be needed by the Institute,
3 the same shall revert to the LGU concerned, or to the Municipality of Allen, Province of
4 Northern Samar.

5 **Section 8. Appropriations.** - The amount needed to initially implement the
6 provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the
7 Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for
8 the continued operation of the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute shall be included in
9 the annual General Appropriations Act.

10 **Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days
11 after the approval of this Act, the TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, the DTI, the
12 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the DILG, the concerned LGUs, and such
13 other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host locality, shall prepare
14 and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

15 **Section 10. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any section of this Act
16 shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall
17 not be affected and shall thereby remain in force and in effect.

18 **Section 11. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, decrees,
19 instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this
20 Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

21 **Section 12. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,