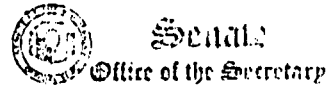


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session

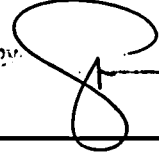
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SENATE

21 JAN 12 P1:52

S. B. NO. 1983

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**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

On February 23, 1995, Republic Act No. 7915 was enacted into law converting the Balicuatro National Vocational School located in the municipality of Allen, province of Northern Samar into the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades. Situated in Northern Samar, Balicuatro consists of the mainland municipalities of Allen, Lavezares, San Isidro and Victoria and the island towns of San Antonio, Capul and San Vicente.

The Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades (BCAT) offers post-secondary non-degree programs and technical education and skills development courses. Currently, BCAT is considered as one of TESDA's prime Centers of Excellence (CENTEX), offering higher level qualifications with its Diploma Program Offerings. BCAT also offers thirty-two (32) TVET programs catering to the residents of Northern Samar.

This bill seeks to convert the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades into the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute, after having substantially complied with all the criteria for the conversion of a school into a Polytechnic Institute. This change in classification will greatly benefit the community insofar as it will help strengthen the capabilities of the people in the area, and further broadening their knowledge and technical know-how.

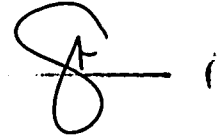
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

21 JAN 12 P1:52

SENATE

S. B. NO. 1983



Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE BALICUATRO COLLEGE OF ARTS AND
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NORTHERN SAMAR, INTO THE NORTHERN SAMAR POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 Municipality
5 of Allen, Province of Northern Samar, is hereby converted into a polytechnic institute,
6 to be known as the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute (NSPI), hereinafter referred
7 to as the Institute, under the supervision and administration of the Technical Education
8 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
10 to the purposes of this Act, and to the mutual agreement of the TESDA and the
11 concerned local government unit (LGU).
12

13 **SEC. 3. General Mandate.** – In line with the adoption of the Philippine Qualifications
14 Framework (PQF) and the Senior High School Program of the Department of
15 Education (DepEd), the Institute shall endeavor to restructure its technical-vocational
16 education and training (TVET) programs to make them responsive to the rapidly
17 changing demands of the industry and the labor market in both the domestic and global
18 fronts, and within the context of the mutual recognition arrangements embodied in the
19 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic integration framework and
20 other relevant international agreements for technical-vocational education.
21
22

1 The Institute shall endeavor to offer higher level competency qualifications in TVET
2 programs and shall continue to upgrade its curricular standards as a TESDA
3 polytechnic educational institution that caters to wide-ranging specialized technical,
4 creative and conceptual knowledge and skills demonstrating depth and complexity in
5 the planning, evaluation, initiation and management of approaches to competency
6 compliant technical skills and functional knowledge appreciation.

7
8 The Institute shall offer a wide array of one (1)-year to three (3)-year TESDA-
9 registered TVET programs and certificate courses, and shall aim to meet the
10 competency requirements under Level V of the PQF, which is the Diploma Level in
11 TVET. It shall primarily provide undergraduate technical-vocational education, and
12 shall likewise ensure the provision of various skills training and trade specialization
13 courses relevant to the needs of the province, specifically geared towards the
14 acquisition of employable skills, gainful employment, practical livelihood and
15 entrepreneurship.

16
17 The Institute shall play a lead role in helping students and out-of-school youth and
18 residents from low-income families and persons with disabilities in the Municipality of
19 Allen and adjacent municipalities in the Province of Northern Samar become
20 productive and self-reliant, and to become part of a globally competitive middle to high-
21 level skilled labor force to hasten the social and economic development of the Province
22 of Northern Samar, in particular, as well as meet the manpower needs of both local
23 and international labor markets, in general.

24
25 The Institute shall consider in the design of relevant TVET training programs and
26 course offering a competency assessment of the socioeconomic profile, employment
27 conditions and opportunities, business climate, market and industry potentials,
28 available resources and presence of support structures, including the literacy level and
29 skills readiness, and the overall development needs of the host area, and adjacent
30 communities within the operational status of the Institute. It shall likewise consider the
31 relevant skills and trade competencies, craftsmanship training programs and
32 entrepreneurship activities needed to deliver the effective employment and
33 development interventions required to make Allen and all localities comprising the
34 Province of Northern Samar human resource and economic productivity hubs.

35
36 The Institute shall also serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired
37 competencies in technical-vocational skills in the entire province of Northern Samar.

38
39 Priority admission to the Institute, including scholarships, grants-in-aid and student
40 financial assistance, however, shall be given to the most disadvantaged citizens of the
41 Municipality of Allen and to the most economically depressed areas in the province.

42
43 Further, as deemed necessary and practicable, in coordination with the DepEd and
44 the TESDA, the Institute shall render relevant teachers' training assistance and
45 curriculum design offering the technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the
46 DepEd and TESDA in the communities and areas within the operational radius of the
47 Institute.

1 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offering/Training Programs.** – The Institute shall offer one (1)-
2 year to three (3)-year diploma courses and undergraduate certificate, including short-
3 term courses and modular trainings in diverse relevant technical-vocational and
4 industrial technology education to comply with employment standards in preferred
5 market-driven labor opportunities. However, it shall give premium efforts to skills
6 specialization for local market employment requirements geared towards achieving
7 the development needs for a robust inclusive economy of the Municipality of Allen and
8 the other municipalities in the Province of Northern Samar, in coordination with the
9 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry
10 (DTI), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National
11 Economic and Development Authority, business-industry partners, and such other
12 relevant agencies and stakeholders.

13
14 The Institute may establish research and technology hubs, mobile training programs,
15 and satellite or extension training centers in priority areas throughout the Province of
16 Northern Samar to strengthen linkages among industry, the academe, and the
17 technology programs of the Institute. It shall likewise adopt the use of innovative
18 training modes such as information technology-assisted instruction, dual learning
19 system, open distance learning, community laboratory, and such other instructional
20 programs to afford the community greater access to TVET and other skills training
21 programs.

22
23 The Institute shall offer TESDA-registered TVET courses and short-term training
24 programs. Course completion in these programs shall be credited through skills
25 competency assessment under National Certification (NC) Levels I to V, as applicable,
26 and shall further qualify for academic recognition under the Ladderized Interface
27 System for tertiary education, if compliant with the requirements under the said
28 program.

29
30 The Institute shall offer skills development options for higher competency qualifications
31 in technical-industrial education, trade technology, tourism, agricultural technology,
32 business literacy, and innovation in TESDA-registered skills courses as follows:

- 33
34 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and
35 steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation,
36 automotive mechanical assembly, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics,
37 and operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and
38 industrial purposes;
39
40 (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such
41 areas as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming
42 and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm
43 tools and equipment operation, agribusiness and agri-aqua trade technology and
44 innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolk's trainings for increased
45 productivity and entrepreneurship;
46
47 (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-
48 scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts,
49 workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring,
50 horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home

1 technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and
2 wellness training;

3
4 (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, practical
5 accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and
6 application procedures, including registration, licensing, documentation,
7 business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and
8 investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-
9 based business operation, and use of social media business marketing;

10
11 (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry,
12 plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing,
13 electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and such other relevant
14 practical skills courses;

15
16 (f) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, digital technology,
17 web design, animation, photoshop/online photography computer design, and
18 advertising;

19
20 (g) Social communication skills development and language proficiency courses in
21 English and other languages for business process outsourcing employment and
22 overseas job placement;

23
24 (h) Seminars on personality development, career counselling and job placement,
25 and work ethic and values; and

26
27 (i) Other preferred priority skills that may be needed by the people of Allen and
28 relevant to the needs of the other service areas in the Province of Northern
29 Samar to enhance their capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment
30 and entrepreneurship skills.

31
32 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements** – The provisions of this Act
33 notwithstanding, the conversion of the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades into the
34 Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute shall become operationally effective only upon
35 the determination and declaration of the TESDA through the issuance of a formal
36 recommendation and Certificate of Compliance that the Institute has satisfactorily
37 complied with the minimum requirements for standards of quality prescribed by
38 TESDA governing the following:

39
40 (a) Standard procedures and guidelines for the establishment, or conversion and
41 operation of a polytechnic institute;

42
43 (b) Operational sustainability of the Institute in terms of licensed faculty/trainers and
44 personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials,
45 and other standard requirements as an Institute;

46
47 (c) Sustainable funding source and allocation of budget requirement of the Institute;

48
49 (d) Full alignment of the training programs offered with the minimum standards of
50 competency-based quality technical-vocational skills technology and needs of

1 the host municipality, Allen, and adjacent areas served within the context of the
2 PQF and ASEAN framework for technical-vocational education; and

- 3
4 (e) Compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities as may be necessary and
5 applicable in its conversion into the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute.
6

7 **SEC. 6. Administration.** – The Institute shall be headed by a School Superintendent
8 under the supervision of the TESDA. The School Superintendent shall be appointed
9 by the TESDA Director General in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
10 Civil Service Commission and the qualification requirements and standards for such
11 office.
12

13 The School Superintendent shall render full-time service and be responsible for the
14 administration and operation of the Institute.
15

16 The academic and administrative staff of the Institute shall be organized according to
17 the staffing pattern prescribed by the TESDA for such type of schools pursuant to
18 existing law, rules and regulations.
19

20 **SEC. 7. Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.** – All assets, fixed and movable,
21 personnel, records and documents of the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades, as
22 well as liabilities or obligations, shall be transferred to the Institute: *Provided*, That the
23 positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty and personnel therein employed
24 pursuant to existing laws prior to its conversion into the Institute shall not be impaired.
25

26 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the Balicuatro College of
27 Arts and Trades are hereby declared property of the Northern Samar Polytechnic
28 Institute and shall be titled under that name: *Provided*, That, should the Institute cease
29 to exist or such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the Institute,
30 the same shall revert to the LGU concerned, or to the Municipality of Allen, Province
31 of Norther Samar.
32

33 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The amount needed for the initial implementation of this
34 Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Balicuatro College
35 of Arts and Trades. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued
36 operation of the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute shall be included in the annual
37 General Appropriations Act.
38

39 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the
40 approval of this Act, the TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, Department of
41 Budget and Management, DILG, the concerned LGUs, and such other relevant
42 agencies and industry-business partners of the host locality, shall prepare and issue
43 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
44

45 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason, any section of this Act shall be
46 deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be
47 affected and shall remain in force and in effect.
48

1 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules
2 and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are repealed
3 or amended accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
6 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7
8 **Approved,**