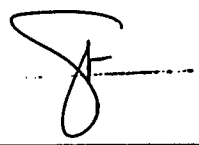


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SENATE
'21 MAY -4 P 4 :00

SENATE
S. B. No. 2156

FILE 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER "BONG" T. GO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) PROVINCIAL TRAINING AND
ASSESSMENT CENTER TO BE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABANGAN,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), created under Republic Act No. 7796, has actively engaged in the forefront of government's efforts to improve the lives of the poor and reduce poverty incidence in the country. In collaboration with other government agencies and private organizations, TESDA continues to reach out to people in poor communities by providing them with special training packages tailor fit to their environment and educating them with the skills most needed by the community.

Located at the western tip of the island of Mindanao, Zamboanga del Sur holds the largest population in Region IX. "Relatively, its economy is basically rooted in agriculture with farming and fishing as the main economic activities of the province. By industrial origin, the Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry Sector contributes about 50% of its

Gross Regional Domestic Product followed by the Services Sector at 35%. Meanwhile, the Industry Sector contributes the remaining 15% of the regional economy.”¹

However, training centers on farming, fishing and other vocational and technical courses are only situated in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur’s capital. Due to the insufficient number of TESDA training centers in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur, there is a need to establish a training center in the Municipality of Labangan which will make the programs and services of TESDA more accessible to the constituents of Zamboanga del Sur.

In addition, the creation of the said center will help students and local residents from low-income families, out of school youth, graduates, unemployed and underemployed adults, workers in the informal sector, low-income families, persons with disabilities, and ethnic indigenous peoples. This Act also aims to encourage full participation and mobilization of the industry and labor of the Province of Zamboanga del Sur and is a step towards recovery from the economic hardships brought by the pandemic.

In pursuit of goals to promote and strengthen the quality of technical education and skills development programs in the country and to attain international competitiveness across the globe, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

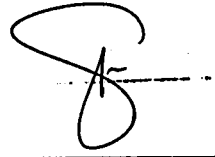


SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

¹ *Profile of Region 9*, Department of Trade and Industry Website, Review: <https://www.dti.gov.ph/regions/region-9/profile/>

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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 "Zamboanga del Sur
2 TESDA Provincial Training and Assessment Center Act".

3
4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policies.** – There is hereby established Zamboanga del
5 Sur Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Provincial Training
6 and Assessment Center to be located in the Municipality of Labangan, Province of
7 Zamboanga del Sur.

8
9 **Section 3. General Mandate.** The Zamboanga del Sur TESDA Provincial Training and
10 Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall primarily provide relevant
11 and quality technical-vocational education and training (TVET), including practical short-
12 term specials courses and one (1) year to three (3) - year TESDA- registered technical-

1 vocational skills programs and certificate courses, to out-of- school youth, high school
2 students and graduates, unemployed and underemployed adults, other workers, other
3 workers in the informal sector and residents from low-income families, as well as persons
4 with disabilities in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur, to help them become self-reliant
5 and globally competitive labor assets. The Center shall also aim to meet the maximum
6 competency requirement under Level V of the Philippines Qualifications Framework (PQF),
7 as institutionalized by Republic Act No. 10968 (PQF Act), which is the Diploma Level in
8 technical-vocational education.

9
10 The Center shall help train local residents in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur
11 within the operational radius of the Center to be developed into globally competitive
12 middle to high-level skilled labor force to meet the manpower placement demands of both
13 local and international labor markets, as well as hasten the social and economic
14 development of the Province of Zamboanga del Sur. The Center shall consider, in the
15 design of relevant technical-vocational training programs to be offered therein, the
16 preferred skills categories according to identified development targets, thereby propelling
17 the area in becoming a skilled human resource and economic productivity hub.

18
19 The Center shall also serve as the TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for
20 acquired competencies in technical-vocational skills in the entire Province of Zamboanga
21 del Sur.

22
23 As deemed necessary and practicable, in coordination with the Department of
24 Education (DepEd) and TESDA, the Center shall render relevant teachers' trainings
25 assistance and curriculum design to the secondary schools offering technical-vocation
26 livelihood (TVL) track under the K to 12 Program of the DepEd in the communities and
27 areas in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur.

28
29 **Section 4. Curriculum Offerings/Training Programs.** – The Center, in consultation
30 with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and

1 Industry (DTI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Interior and Local
2 Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA),
3 business-industry partners, and such other relevant agencies, both local and international,
4 shall offer diverse short-term certificate courses and modular trainings in relevant
5 technical-vocational skills and trade specialization to comply with the employment
6 standards in preferred and emerging market-driver labor opportunities, but shall likewise
7 give premium requirements towards attaining a robust inclusive economy in the host area
8 and the adjacent localities and communities within the operational radius of the Center.

9
10 The Center may establish research and technological hubs, mobile training
11 programs, and satellite or extension training centers in priority areas throughout the
12 Province of Zamboanga del Sur not only to serve the manpower needs of the areas, but
13 also to strengthen the linkages among industry, the academe and the Center.

14
15 The Center shall, as far as necessary and practicable, offer the following TESDA-
16 registered technical-vocational training programs with the competency's assessment
17 leading to at least National Certification Levels I-III, as applicable, to increase the
18 livelihood assets and competitive productivity in the entire Province of Zamboanga del
19 Sur in the following:

- 20
- 21 a. Skills training in industry technology and hard trades such as metal and steel
22 works, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation,
23 automotive mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and
24 operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and
25 industrial purposes;
 - 26
27 b. Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such
28 areas, but not limited to, farming-fishing operations technology, backyard
29 farming and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations,
30 mechanized farm and fishing tools and equipment operations, agribusiness,

1 agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant farmers and
2 fisherfolks continuing trainings for increased productivity and
3 entrepreneurship;

4
5 c. Social communication skills development, language proficiency courses in
6 English and other languages for business outsourcing (call center) employment
7 and overseas job placement;

8
9 d. Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and
10 small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in crafts and
11 art, workmanship and designing (fabric, woodworks, jewelry and metal works),
12 horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home
13 technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking, including baking, beauty
14 culture (includes cosmetology, hair and nail styling), health and wellness
15 trainings;

16
17 e. Basic business literacy training in: financial management and marketing,
18 practical accountancy, bookkeeping and office procedures, business processes
19 and application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation,
20 business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and
21 investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, including
22 online home-based business operation and use of social media business
23 marketing;

24
25 f. Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry,
26 plumbing, practical electricity and installation, automotive technician and
27 servicing, electronics technician and servicing, welding technician personal
28 computer (PC) servicing, and such other relevant practical skills courses;

- 1 g. Computer literacy and information technology (IT)-related skills, digital
2 technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online photography computer
3 design and advertising;
- 4
5 h. Seminars in personality development, career counseling and job placements,
6 work ethics and values; and
- 7
8 i. Other preferred priority skills and trade training that may be utilized by the
9 people of Zamboanga del Sur for practical livelihood purposes, gainful
10 employment and entrepreneurial activities.
- 11

12 **Section 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act
13 notwithstanding, the Center established herein shall become operationally effective only
14 upon the determination and declaration of the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal
15 recommendation and certificate of compliance, that the Center has satisfactorily complied
16 with the minimum requirements for quality standards prescribed by TESDA governing the
17 following competency assessment (a) standard procedures and guidelines (SPGs) for the
18 establishment and operation of a TESDA-accredited training center; (b) operational
19 sustainability of the Center established herein, such as licensed faculty-trainers and
20 personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and other
21 standard requirements as a TESDA-accredited training center, (c) sustainable funding
22 source and allocation of budget requirement of the Center hereto established; (d)
23 assurance that the training quality technical-vocational skills technology and needs of the
24 host area and adjacent communities within the service area of the Center; (e) program
25 alignment and benchmarking in the context of the ASEAN framework and the PQF for
26 TVET; and (f) compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and stands as may be
27 necessary and applicable in establishing a TESDA-accredited training center.

28

29 **Section 6. Administration.** – The Center shall be headed by a Technical-Vocational
30 Administrator, who shall be appointed by the TESDA Director-General in accordance with

1 civil service rules and regulations and the qualification requirements for such office.
2

3 The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall render full-time services and shall be
4 responsible for the administration and operation of the Center. As far as necessary and
5 practicable, and subject to existing procedures and the approval of the TESDA Director
6 General, the Technical-Vocational Administrator shall enter into mutual agreement with
7 local-based counterpart agencies, or instrumentalities and persons, both private and
8 government, for such assistance as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act.
9

10 **Section 7. Appropriations.** – The Secretary General of TESDA shall include in the
11 Authority's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
12 in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGUs concerned, in consultation with
13 TESDA, shall likewise set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed
14 appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support the operation of the Center established
15 herein.
16

17 **Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after
18 the approval of this Act, the TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, the DTI, the DA, the
19 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the DILG, the concerned LGUs, and such
20 other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host locality, shall prepare
21 and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
22

23 **Section 9. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason, any section of this Act shall
24 be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provision hereof shall not be
25 affected and shall thereby remain in full force and effect.
26

27 **Section 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive order, decrees, instructions,
28 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby
29 repealed or modified accordingly.
30

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

3

4 Approved,