
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 512

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education;
Ways and Means; and Finance on JAN 25 2022

Re: House Bill No. 10283

Recommending the approval of House Bill No. 10283 without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Joel Villanueva

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Ways and Means; and Finance, to which were referred **House Bill No. 10283**, introduced by Representatives Rafael M. Cueva, Mark O. Go, Eric Go Yap et al., entitled:

"AN ACT

CONVERTING THE NORTHERN NEGROS STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SAGAY CITY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "STATE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN NEGROS", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that House Bill No. 10283, be approved without amendment.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons



SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA

*Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education;
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance*



SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO

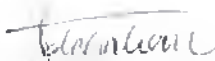
*Committee on Ways and Means
Vice-Chairperson, Committee
on Finance
Member, Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational
Education*



SEN. SONNY ANGARA

*Committee on Finance
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on
Ways and Means
Member, Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational Education*

Vice-Chairpersons



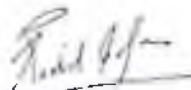
SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

*Committee on Higher, Technical and
Vocational Education;
Committee on Finance;
Member, Committee on Ways and Means*


SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

*Committee on Finance;
Member, Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational Education*


SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA
Committee on Finance;
Member, Committee on Ways and Means


SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON
Committee on Finance;
Member, Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational Education
Member, Committee on Ways and
Means

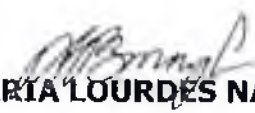

SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means


SEN. CHRISTOPHER BONG GO
Committee on Finance;
Member, Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational Education
Member, Committee on Ways and
Means


SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Higher, Technical
and Vocational Education
Member, Committee on Ways and Means



SEN. GRACE POE
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational Education
Member, Committee on Ways and
Means

Members



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Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Committee on Finance



SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.

Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Finance



SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID


Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Finance

SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON

Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Finance

SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

Committee on Finance



SEN. EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO

Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Finance

SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

Committee on Finance



SEN. LEILA M. DE LIMA

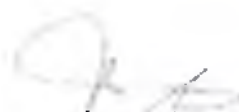
Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Finance



SEN. FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Finance

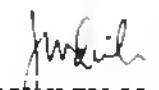
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SEN. RALPH G. RECTO
President Pro-Tempore



SEN. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Majority Leader



SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Minority Leader

HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10283

BY REPRESENTATIVES CUEVA, GO (M.), YAP (E.), SALCEDA, DAGOOC, VILLA, ENVERGA, TAN (A.), BARBA, SUANSING (E.), SUANSING (H.), ORDANES, BASCUG, GARCIA (P.J.), ARENAS, CRISOLOGO, NOGRALES (J.J.), RODRIGUEZ, VIOLAGO, ERICAS, SAVELLANO, TAMIUNTING, BANAS-NOGRALES, GAHN (S.), DELOSO-MONTALLA, ABANTE, GERON, TEJADA, LACSON, SALO, AGABAS, ABU, LEGARDA, GORRICETA, KHO (W.), GATCHALLAN, FUENTEABELLA AND VALMAYOR, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1255

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE NORTHERN NEGROS STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SAGAY CITY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "STATE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN NEGROS", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Conversion.** The Northern Negros State College of Science and
2 Technology (NONESCOST) in Sagay City, Province of Negros Occidental, including
3 the Laga-an Campus in the Municipality of Calatrava, Negros Occidental, and the
4 Escalante Campus in Escalante City, Negros Occidental, is hereby converted into a state
5 university to be known as the "State University of Northern Negros", hereinafter
6 referred to as the SUNN. The main campus of the SUNN shall be located in Sagay City,
7 Negros Occidental.

8
9 **SEC. 2. Curricular Offerings.** The SUNN shall offer short-term technical-
10 vocational courses, undergraduate and graduate programs within its competency and
11 areas of specialization in the fields of agriculture, arts, biology, national science,
12 business and management, criminology, education, engineering, fisheries, food
13 technology, healthcare, industrial technology, information and communications
14 technology, management, and marine sciences, and other relevant fields of study, as the
15 Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary for the

1 accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to the human resource
2 development needs of the Province of Negros Occidental and Region VI
3

4 It shall also undertake research and extension services, and provide progressive
5 leadership in its areas of specialization.
6

7 **SEC. 3. Administration.** The SUNN shall have the general powers of a
8 corporation set forth in Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the "Revised
9 Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the SUNN and the exercise
10 of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board and the President.
11

12 **SEC. 4. The Governing Board.** The governing body of the SUNN shall be the
13 Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on
14 Higher Education (CHED) and the President of the SUNN, respectively, and with the
15 following as members:
16

- 17 a. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational
18 Education of the Senate;
- 19 b. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the
20 House of Representatives;
- 21 c. Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- 22 d. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
- 23 e. Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- 24 f. President of the federation of faculty associations of the SUNN;
- 25 g. President of the federation of student councils of the SUNN;
- 26 h. President of the federation of alumni associations of the SUNN; and
- 27 i. Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished
28 themselves in their professions or fields of specialization
29

30 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a
31 list of at least five (5) qualified persons from the Province of Negros Occidental, as
32 recommended by a search committee constituted by the President of the SUNN, in
33 consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and other members of the Board, based
34 on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for
35 a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.
36

37 The membership of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the
38 President of the federation of student councils, and the President of the federation of
39 alumni associations in the Board shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as
40 provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws
41

42 **SEC. 5. Powers and Duties of the Board.** In addition to its general powers of
43 administration and the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under
44 existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:
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- 46 a. Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State
47 policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on
48 education, agriculture, science and technology, and the policies, standards and
49 thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the
50 "Higher Education Act of 1994";

1 b. Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student discipline
2 drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils as herein provided,
3

4 c. Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the SUNN, the vice
5 presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other
6 officials and employees of the SUNN;
7

8 d. Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials and
9 employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position
10 Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws
11 governing hours of service, and such other duties and conditions as it may deem
12 proper; grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as
13 it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding;
14 and remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process
15 of law,
16

17 e. Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation
18 fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to
19 impose, after due consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges,
20 including government subsidies and other income generated by the SUNN, shall
21 constitute its special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized
22 government depository bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form
23 part of the same funds for the use of the SUNN;
24

25 Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary
26 notwithstanding, any income generated by the SUNN from tuition fees and other
27 charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall
28 be retained by the SUNN and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction,
29 research, extension services or other programs and projects of the SUNN.
30 *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for
31 which these are collected. *Provided, however*, That if, for reasons beyond its
32 control, the SUNN shall not be able to pursue any project for which the funds
33 have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of
34 expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable
35 purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment
36 of the objectives and goals of the SUNN,
37

38 f. Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for
39 greater access of poor, but deserving students, in accordance with Republic Act
40 No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary
41 Education Act",
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43 g. Establish professorial chairs in the SUNN and provide fellowships for
44 qualified faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;
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46 h. Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided by law for the support of
47 the SUNN, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine
48 to carry out the purposes and functions of the SUNN;
49

50 i. Set the policies on admission and graduation of students.

- 1 j. Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding
2 contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and
3 technology, sports and human kinetics or any field of specialization within the
4 academic competency of the SUNN, and authorize the awarding of certificates of
5 completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;
6
- 7 k. Establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the
8 SUNN;
9
- 10 l. Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with
11 appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local or foreign,
12 and appoint experts or specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange
13 professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;
14
- 15 m. Adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge to allow
16 greater access to education such as the use of information technology, dual
17 training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;
18
- 19 n. Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges
20 within the Province of Negros Occidental and Region VI, under the supervision
21 of the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and
22 Management (DBM), in restructuring the SUNN to make it more efficient,
23 relevant, productive and competitive;
24
- 25 o. Absorb non chartered tertiary institutions within the province of Negros
26 Occidental and Region VI as branches, extension or external centers, in
27 coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and offer
28 therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate of providing
29 equal access to educational opportunities;
30
- 31 p. Authorize an external management audit of the SUNN, to be financed by the
32 CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and
33 institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the
34 audit results and recommendations;
35
- 36 q. Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local
37 government units (LGUs), as well as public, private, local or foreign institutions
38 and agencies for the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the SUNN,
39
- 40 r. Import economic, technical and cultural books and publications;
41
- 42 s. Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable
43 management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the
44 development and strengthening of the SUNN;
45
- 46 t. Receive in trust, such legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal
47 properties of all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when necessary,
48 for the benefit of the SUNN and subject to the limitations, directions and
49 instructions of the donor, if any;

1 u. Extend the term of the President of the SUNN beyond the age of retirement,
2 but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines, qualifications
3 and standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That the President's performance has
4 been rated by the Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for
5 such extension has been decided upon by the search committee;

6
7 v. Delegate any of its powers and duties to the President and other officials of the
8 SUNN, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the
9 affairs of the SUNN.

10
11 w. Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent
12 decision-making within the SUNN.

13
14 x. Where most advantageous to the SUNN, privatize the management of
15 nonacademic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property
16 maintenance, and such other similar activities,

17
18 y. Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment
19 and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including
20 the necessary supplies, materials, and equipment, and

21
22 z. Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the
23 purposes and functions of the SUNN.

24
25 **SEC. 6. Meetings of the Board** - The Board shall regularly convene once
26 every three (3) months. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, call a special
27 meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least
28 three (3) days prior to the conduct of said meeting.

29
30 A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all its members holding
31 office at the time of the meeting. *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the Board
32 or the President of the SUNN is among those present in the meeting.

33
34 In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a
35 CHED Commissioner duly designated by Chairperson of the CHED as representative to
36 the meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*,
37 That during the meeting, the President of the SUNN, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the
38 presiding officer. *Provided, further*, That this provision notwithstanding, the
39 Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as
40 the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall
41 act as the presiding officer.

42
43 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and
44 Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education
45 shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective
46 representatives who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as the regular
47 members of the Board

48
49 The members of the Board shall not receive any salary, but shall be entitled to
50 reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance to

1 the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by
2 resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

3
4 **SEC. 7. *The University President.*** The SUNN shall be headed by a President
5 who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualifications and
6 standards, and based on the recommendation of a search committee duly constituted for
7 the purpose of selecting the President. The SUNN President shall render full-time
8 service, serve a term of four (4) years, and may be eligible for reappointment to another
9 term; *Provided*, That in order to effect the smooth transition of the college to a state
10 university, the incumbent President of the NONESCOST, if qualified, shall serve as the
11 first President of the SUNN.

12
13 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the
14 incumbent President of the SUNN, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for
15 the Presidency.

16
17 The powers and duties of the President of the SUNN, in addition to those
18 specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office
19 of the President of similar state universities and colleges and those delegated by the
20 Board.

21
22 The salary of the President of the SUNN shall be in accordance with Republic
23 Act No. 11466 or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such other laws
24 amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that
25 being received by the Presidents of similar educational institutions.

26
27 In case of a vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death,
28 compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to
29 perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of
30 the SUNN, pending the appointment of a new President. *Provided*, That the Officer-in-
31 Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term

32
33 The President of the SUNN shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic
34 Affairs, a Vice President for Administration, and a Vice President for Research,
35 Development, and Extension, who shall all be appointed by the Board upon the
36 recommendation of the President of the SUNN.

37
38 **SEC. 8. *The Secretary of the University*** The Board shall appoint a Secretary
39 who shall serve as such for both the Board and the SUNN and shall keep all records and
40 proceedings of the Board. The Secretary of the SUNN shall serve upon each member of
41 the Board the appropriate notice of board meetings

42
43 **SEC. 9. *The Treasurer of the University.*** The Treasurer of the Philippines
44 shall be the *ex officio* Treasurer of the SUNN.

45
46 **SEC. 10. *The Administrative Council.*** There shall be an Administrative
47 Council consisting of the President of the SUNN as chairperson, and the vice presidents,
48 deans, directors, and other officials of equal rank as members, that shall review and
49 recommend to the Board the policies that shall govern the administration, management,
50 and development planning of the SUNN

1 **SEC. 11. *The Academic Council.*** There shall be an Academic Council which
2 shall formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the President of the SUNN,
3 who shall act as chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant
4 professor, as members.

5
6 The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend the
7 curricular offerings and rules on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.
8 It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation
9 and conferment of degrees, subject to the review and approval of the Board through the
10 President of the SUNN

11
12 It shall exercise disciplinary power over the students of the SUNN and shall
13 formulate rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the approval of the
14 Board.

15
16 **SEC. 12 *Heads of University Campuses.*** - The Campus Directors shall
17 respectively serve as heads or administrators of the campuses of the SUNN and shall
18 render full-time service.

19
20 They shall be appointed or designated by the Board, upon recommendation of
21 the search committee and the President of the SUNN, subject to the guidelines,
22 qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided,* That, upon the effectivity of
23 this Act, the incumbent Campus Directors of the existing campuses of the
24 NONESCOST shall continue to serve as such.

25
26 **SEC. 13 *The Faculty.*** No political belief, gender preference, cultural or
27 community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a
28 matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the SUNN: *Provided,* That
29 said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by
30 the Board: *Provided, further,* That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against
31 any particular church or religious sect

32
33 **SEC. 14. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy*** - The SUNN shall
34 enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5
35 of Article XIV of the Constitution

36
37 **SEC. 15. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*** - The SUNN shall provide
38 scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students
39 who qualify for admission to the SUNN.

40
41 No student shall be denied admission to the SUNN by reason of gender, religion,
42 cultural or community affiliation, or ethnic origin

43
44 **SEC. 16. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies***
45 ***and Detail of Personnel.*** - Upon the request of the Board, through the President of the
46 SUNN, the heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government may loan or
47 transfer to the SUNN such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by it, and
48 detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office,
49 the apparatus, equipment, supplies or service of such employees can be spared without
50 serious detriment to public service.

1 The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the
2 President of the SUNN, and the time so served shall be counted as part of their regular
3 service
4

5 **SEC. 17. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.*** All assets, both real and personal,
6 personnel, and records of the NONESCOST, as well as its liabilities or obligations, are
7 hereby transferred to the SUNN: *Provided*, That the positions, rights, and security of
8 tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to
9 the conversion into a university shall be respected; *Provided, further*, That the
10 incumbents occupying the positions shall remain in the same status until otherwise
11 provided for by the Board; *Provided, finally*, That the SUNN shall also accordingly
12 upgrade or increase its human resource component as may be deemed appropriate by the
13 Board.
14

15 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the NONESCOST
16 and all its campuses are hereby declared property of the SUNN, and shall be titled under
17 its name; *Provided*, That should the SUNN cease to exist or be abolished or should such
18 aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the SUNN, the same shall revert
19 to the concerned LGU or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be
20

21 **SEC. 18. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.*** - The importation by the SUNN of
22 economic, technical, and cultural books or publications, which are for economic,
23 technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical, or cultural purposes shall,
24 upon certification by the CHED, be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the
25 provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization
26 and Tariff Act (CMTA)".
27

28 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used
29 actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes by the SUNN, shall be
30 exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from
31 gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance
32 with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended
33

34 **SEC. 19. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.*** The provisions of this Act
35 notwithstanding, the conversion of the NONESCOST to a state university shall become
36 effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the
37 recommendation of a panel of experts constituted for the purpose, that the institution has
38 complied with the requirements for a university status based on CHED Memorandum
39 Order No. 46, series of 2012 (Policy-Standard to Enhance Quality Assurance (QA) in
40 Philippine Higher Education Through an Outcomes-Based and Typology-Based QA);
41 *Provided*, That the panel may issue such recommendation when the NONESCOST has
42 substantially complied with the requirements for the grant of university status
43

44 The following operational requirements for a university, as established by the
45 CHED, shall be complied with:
46

- 47 a. Employment of full-time, permanent faculty members who possess relevant
48 degrees in their areas of specialization, as required by the CHED, and shall have
49 participated in research and development activities in their respective disciplines,
50 as evidenced by refereed publications and other scholarly outputs;

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b. Offering of a comprehensive range of degree programs in all levels, from basic post-secondary to doctoral programs;

c. Conduct of viable research programs in specific disciplinal and multidisciplinary areas of study that produce new knowledge, as evidenced by refereed publications, citations, inventions, and patents, among others;

d. Establishment and maintenance of comprehensive learning resources and support structures, to include libraries, practicum laboratories, relevant educational resources, and linkages with relevant disciplinal and professional sectors, so as to allow students to explore basic, advance, and even cutting-edge knowledge in a wide range of disciplines or professions,

e. Maintenance of linkage and affiliation with other research institutions in various parts of the world to ensure that the research activities of the SUNN are functioning at current global standards; and

f. Conduct of outreach activities to allow the students, faculty, and research staff to apply the new knowledge they generate to address specific social development problems.

The CHED, through its regional office, shall regularly provide technical assistance to the NONESCOST and monitor its compliance with the requirements of the CHED.

The NONESCOST shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of this Act until it is able to comply with the requirements provided herein

SEC. 20. *Development Plan, Management Audit, Organizational, Administrative, and Academic Structure.* Within a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the SUNN shall accomplish the following

- a. Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its program budget to the CHED for recommendation to the DBM,
- b. Set up its organizational, administrative, and academic structure, including the appointment of key officials of the SUNN, and
- c. Undergo a management audit in coordination with the CHED.

SEC. 21. *Filing of Report.* On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second (2nd) month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file a detailed report on the progress, condition, and needs of the SUNN with the Office of the President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress, through the Chairperson of the CHED

SEC. 22. *Suppletory Application.* The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part of this Act.

1 **SEC. 23. *Parity Clause.*** All other powers, functions, privileges,
2 responsibilities, and limitations to state universities and colleges and their officials under
3 existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the SUNN or its officials,
4 whenever appropriate.
5

6 **SEC. 24. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
7 this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the NONESCOST.
8 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance
9 of the SUNN shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
10

11 **SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within sixty (60) days from
12 the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue the rules
13 and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.
14

15 **SEC. 26. *Separability Clause.*** If, for any reason, any part or provision of this
16 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
17 are in full force and effect.
18

19 **SEC. 27. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
20 and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
21 repealed or modified accordingly.
22

23 **SEC. 28. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,