

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3226



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**Introduced by: Representatives Gil "Kabbarangay Jr." A. Acosta, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, and Franz E. Alvarez**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill was filed in the Seventeenth Congress as House Bill No. 6325, and was later on substituted as House Bill No. 8852. House Bill No. 8852 was approved by the House on third and final reading on January 29, 2019, and was then transmitted to the Senate on January 13, 2019.

This bill seeks to establish Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training Centers in the Province of Palawan.

Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.”

Likewise, the Constitution declares that “Congress shall give highest priority to enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities (Article XIII, Section 1) and that “The promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance” (Article XIII, Section 2).

Republic Act No. 7796, otherwise known as the Technical Education and Skills Development Act of 1994 provides that "It is the declared policy of the State to provide relevant, accessible, high quality, and efficient technical education and skills development in support of the development of high quality Filipino middle-level manpower responsive to and in accordance with Philippine development goals and priorities.

The establishment of accessible, high quality, and efficient technical education and skills development centers in the Province of Palawan shall be beneficial not only to Grade 11 and 12 students, to the out of school youth, high school students and graduates, unemployed and underemployed adults, workers in the informal sector, persons with disabilities and ethnic indigenous people, and residents from low-income families. This bill which is aimed to equip the citizens with basic practical knowledge and technical expertise in their desired area of competency is geared towards a society that would be self-reliant, productive, and globally competitive.

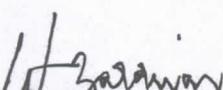
On the basis of the above premises, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**GIL "Kabbarangay Jr." A. ACOSTA**  
Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> District of Palawan



**FRANZ E. ALVAREZ**  
Representative  
1<sup>st</sup> District of Palawan



**CYRILLE "Beng" E. ABUEG - ZALDIVAR**  
Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Palawan

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1 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PALAWAN PROVINCIAL  
2 TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
3 AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN  
4 THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES  
5 OF CORON, CUYO, ROXAS, SAN VICENTE, SOFRONIO ESPAÑOLA,  
6 AND QUEZON, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AND APPROPRIATING  
7 FUNDS THEREFOR

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

10 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Palawan  
11 Provincial TESDA Training and Assessment Centers Act.”

12 **SECTION 2. Establishment.** – There is hereby established Technical  
13 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Provincial Training  
14 Centers and Assessment Centers in the Province of Palawan, under the  
15 supervision of the TESDA, to be known as the Palawan Provincial TESDA  
16 Training and Assessment Centers. The seven (7) Centers shall be established in  
17 strategic locations in the three (3) legislative districts of the Province of  
18 Palawan in the City of Puerto Princesa, and in the Municipalities of Coron,  
19 Cuyo, Roxas, San Vicente, Sofronio Espa ola, and Quezon, pursuant to the

20 purposes of this Act and to the mutual agreement between the TESDA and the  
21 concerned local government units (LGUs).

22       **SECTION 3. General Mandate.** – The Palawan Provincial TESDA  
23 Training Centers, hereinafter referred to as the Centers, shall primarily provide  
24 relevant, and quality technical-vocational education and training (TVET),  
25 including practical short-term specialty courses and one (1)-year to three (3)-  
26 year TESDA-registered technical-vocational skills training programs and  
27 certificate courses, to out-of-school youths, high school students and graduates,  
28 unemployed and underemployed adults, workers in the informal sector, persons  
29 with disabilities and ethnic indigenous people, and residents from low-income  
30 families in the host localities of the City of Puerto Princesa, and in the  
31 Municipalities of Coron, Cuyo, Roxas, San Vicente, Sofronio Española, and  
32 Quezon, and the rest of the predominantly island municipalities of the Province  
33 of Palawan, to help them become productive, self-reliant and globally  
34 competitive labor assets . The Centers shall also aim to meet the maximum  
35 competency requirements under Level V of the Philippine Qualifications  
36 Framework (PQF), as institutionalized by Republic Act No. 10968 (PQF Act),  
37 which is the Diploma Level in technical-vocational education.

38       The Centers shall help train and develop local residents in the twenty-four  
39 (24) island localities in the Province of Palawan within the operational radius  
40 of the Centers into globally competitive middle to high-level skilled labor force  
41 to meet the manpower placement demands of both local and international labor  
42 markets, and hasten the socioeconomic development of these areas and of the  
43 province. The Centers shall consider, in the design of relevant TVET programs  
44 to be offered therein, the preferred skills categories based on identified  
45 development targets to propel the province to becoming a skilled human  
46 resource and economic productivity hub.

47       The Centers shall also serve as TESDA-accredited Assessment Centers  
48 for acquired competencies in technical-vocational skills in the twenty-four (24)  
49 island and islet localities in the Province of Palawan.

50       The Centers, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd)  
51 and the TESDA, shall offer relevant teachers' training and curriculum design  
52 assistance to the secondary schools providing the technical-vocational  
53 livelihood (TVL) track under the K to 12 Program of the DepEd in the Province  
54 of Palawan.

55                   **SECTION 4. Training Programs.** - The Centers, in consultation with  
56 the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade  
57 and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior  
58 and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology  
59 (DOST), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), locally and  
60 internationally-based business-industry partners, and such other relevant  
61 agencies, shall offer diverse short-term certificate courses and modular trainings  
62 in relevant technical-vocational skills and trade specialization to comply with  
63 employment standards in preferred and emerging market-driven labor  
64 opportunities. The Centers shall spearhead training programs in new skills to  
65 respond to market trend towards attaining a robust inclusive economy in the  
66 localities and communities within the operational radius of the Centers.

67                   The Centers may establish research and technology hubs, technology  
68 development farms, mobile training programs, and satellite or extension training  
69 centers in priority areas throughout the City of Puerto Princesa and in the  
70 municipalities of Coron, Cuyo, Roxas, San Vicente, Sofronio Espanola, and  
71 Quezon, and the rest of the neighboring island localities in the Province of  
72 Palawan to serve the manpower needs of these areas and strengthen the linkages  
73 among the industry, the academe, and the Centers.

74                   The Centers shall, as far as necessary and practicable, offer the following  
75 TESDA-registered technical-vocational training programs with competencies  
76 assessment leading to National Certification Levels I-III to increase the  
77 livelihood assets and competitive productivity of the host areas, and the rest of  
78 the neighboring island localities in the Province of Palawan:

- 79                   (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trade such as metal  
80 and steel works, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment  
81 operation, automotive mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning,  
82 electronics, and operation of power tools and equipment for both  
83 medium skills grade and industrial purposes;
- 84                   (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development  
85 in such areas as farming-fishing operations technology, backyard  
86 farming and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations,  
87 mechanized farm and fishing tools and equipment operation,  
88 agribusiness, agri-aqua trade and technology and innovations, and  
89 relevant farmers' and fisher folks' continuing for increased  
90 productivity and entrepreneurship;

- (c) Social communication skills development, language proficiency courses in English and other languages for business process outsourcing (call center) employment and overseas job placement;
- (d) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale entrepreneurship (including practical skills education in crafts and arts), workmanship and designing (such as fabric, woodworks, jewelry, and metal works), high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, agriculture and farm technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking (including baking), beauty culture (such as cosmetology, and hair and nail styling), and health and wellness trainings;
- (e) Basic business literacy training in financial management and marketing, practical accountancy, bookkeeping and office procedures, business processes and application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, including online home-based business operation and use of social media business marketing;
- (f) Technical-vocational occupation and trade skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing, personal computer (PC) servicing, and such other relevant practical skills courses;
- (g) Computer literacy and information technology (IT)-related skills, digital technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design and advertising;
- (h) Seminars in personality development, career counseling and job placement, and work ethics and values; and
- (i) Other preferred priority skills and trade training that are relevant to the diverse needs of the people of the Province of Palawan to enhance their capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurial activities.

**SECTION 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act notwithstanding, each of the Centers established herein shall become operationally effective only upon the determination and declaration of the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and certificate of compliance, that each of the Centers has satisfactorily complied with the minimum

128 requirements for quality standards prescribed by the TESDA  
129 governing the following: (a) standard procedures and guidelines  
130 (SPGs) for the establishment and operation of a TESDA-accredited  
131 provincial training and competency assessment center; (b) operational  
132 sustainability of each of the Centers established herein, such as  
133 licensed faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment, training and ,  
134 funding source for the budgetary requirement of the Center herein  
135 established; (d) assurance that the training programs offered are fully  
136 aligned with the minimum standards of competency-based quality  
137 technical-vocational skills technology and the needs of the host area  
138 and the adjacent communities within the service of the Center; (e)  
139 program alignment and benchmarking in the context of the  
140 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) framework and the  
141 PQF for TVET; and (f) compliance with such other TESDA  
142 conditionalities and standards in establishing a TESDA-accredited  
143 training center, as may be necessary.

144 **SECTION 6. Administration.** – The Centers shall each be headed by  
145 a Technical-Vocational Administrator, under the supervision of the  
146 TESDA, who shall render full-time services and be responsible for the  
147 administration and operation of each of the Centers.

148 The Technical-Vocational Administrator of each of the Centers  
149 shall be appointed by the TESDA Director General in accordance with  
150 civil service rules and regulations and the qualification requirements  
151 for such office.

152 The Technical-Vocational Administrator of each of the Centers  
153 shall enter into mutual agreements with locally-based private and  
154 public counterpart agencies or instrumentalities and persons, subject to  
155 the approval by the TESDA Director General, for such assistance as  
156 may be necessary to effectively implement this Act.

157 **SECTION 7. Appropriations.** – The Director General of the TESDA  
158 shall include in the Authority's program the implementation of this  
159 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
160 Appropriations Act. The LGUs concerned, in consultation with the  
161 TESDA, shall likewise set aside from any available local revenue an  
162 amount deemed appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support the  
163 operation of the Centers established herein.

164                   **SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety  
165                   (90) days after the approval of this Act, the TESDA, in coordination  
166                   with the DOLE, DTI, DA, Department of Budget and Management  
167                   (DBM), DILG, DOST, NEDA, the concerned LGUs, and other  
168                   relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host localities  
169                   and the provincial government shall prepare and issue the necessary  
170                   rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

171                   **SECTION 9. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section or  
172                   provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the  
173                   other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall  
174                   remain in force and effect.

175                   **SECTION 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders,  
176                   decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent  
177                   with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended  
178                   accordingly.

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

182                   Approved,

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