

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1205**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by: **Hon. Divina Grace C. Yu**

AN ACT UPGRADING THE POSITION OF THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICER INTO THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6959, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Forefront to the national development in the history of the Philippines, the National Science Development Board (NSDB) was created 1958 during the administration of Pres. Carlos P. Garcia. It was originally mandated to survey the state of science and technology development in the Philippines at the time. It is an office under the Office of the President which located in Manila. NSDB then became the National Science and Technology Authority (NSTA) 1982 to expand its function and coverage to the Regions.

In 1987, when Pres. Corazon C. Aquino rose to power and in a shake-up of the executive departments the NSTA was elevated to cabinet-level status to become the present-day Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to meet the demands of the burgeoning fields of science and technology and increased calls from various sectors of Philippine society state intervention in the fields of science and technology for the sake of national government.

DOST then became the premier science and technology agency in the country charged with the twin mandate of providing central direction, leadership, and coordination of all science and technology activities in the country and formulating science and technology policies, programs and projects in support to the national development. The DOST System is composed of two (2) Advisory Bodies, four (4) Sectoral Planning Councils, seven (7) Research and Developments Institutes, and eight (8) Science and Technology services institutes. These are:

DOST Attached Agencies

National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)

National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP)

Sectoral Planning Councils

- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)
- Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
- Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD)

Research and Development Institutes

- Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI)
- Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI)
- Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI)
- Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI)
- Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC)
- Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI)
- Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI)

Science and Technology Service Institutes

- Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS)
- Technology Application Promotion Institute (TAPI)
- Science and Technology Information Institute (STII)
- Science Education Institute (SEI)
- Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System
- Technology Transfer Center (TRC)
- Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO)

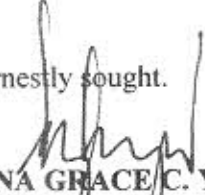
Currently, there are 16 Department of Science and Technology Regional Offices and 79 Provincial Science and Technology Centers all over the country.

In 1992, the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) was created under RA 6959, a body mandated to disseminate, transfer technologies and provide technological support services for the development of small and medium enterprises in the rural areas. It is manned by only 2 personnel headed by the Provincial Science and Technology Officers (PSTOs). The position of the PSTO is only Senior Science Research Specialist with a salary grade of only 19, but working for the development of science and technology for the entire province while other national government agency of the same level in the province possess higher position.

The PSTCs serve as the implementing arm of DOST for all its flagship projects under Smarter Philippines as well as effective listening posts on science and technology concerns in the provinces. The DOST Smarter Philippines flagship projects include, inter alia, Projects Disaster Risk and Exposure Assessment for Mitigation – Light Detection and Ranging (DREAM-LiDAR), E-Health/Rx Box Project, Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) or Monorail, and Small and Medium Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SET-UP). The SET-UP is a national technology transfer program in support of national and rural

development was started in 2005 and has been expanded to respond more effectively to the business and technology needs of SMEs. The program is assisting enterprises in food, furniture, gifts/toys/housewares, marine and aquatic products, horticulture, and metals and engineering technologies. From 2002 to 2012 there were 16,292 MSMEs provided with technology intervention, 34,304 employments generated, 2,232 new market penetrated and generated a product sales Php 73B, with upgraded salary grade and better logical support, the PSTO can enhance the status of the MSME's and advance the development of science and technology based rural enterprises, create more employment opportunities and increase the income of the rural families.

Immediate passage of this important measure is earnestly sought.



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

Section 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the *"Provincial Science and Technology Directors Act of 2016."*

Section 2. Declaration Policy – It is the policy and duty of the state to fast track the transfer of relevant and appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas particularly in the enhancement and development of technology based livelihood enterprises in the countryside.

In pursuance to this policy, the Provincial Centers of the Department of Science and Technology which is the principal instruments of technology transfer and development of technology based enterprises of the government in the rural areas are upgraded through this Act.

Section 3. Provincial S&T Directors – There position of the Office of the Provincial Science and Technology Officers headed by a Senior Science Research Specialist shall be upgraded to the rank of Provincial Science and Technology Directors in each province under the Department of Science and Technology with a salary grade of 27.-The Provincial Science and Technology Directors shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

01. Formulate the Provincial S&T plan, programs and projects designed to promote science and consciousness among the people in the province.
02. Implements and monitors the technology promotion and commercialization projects under the Small and Medium enterprises technology. Upgrading Program (SETUP) of the DOST in the provinces.

03. Promotes the adoption of appropriate technologies by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME's) to improve operational efficiency and increase productivity and to harness the results of scientific researchers and innovations to produce new and competitive products.
04. Disseminate S&T related information and R&D results through the conduct of trainings.
05. Maintains effective liaison with the public and private academic institutions and other government agencies engaged in scientific and technological research education and training.
06. Coordinates with LGUs and academic institutions for the promotion of scholarship programs aimed to attract the science oriented students to pursue basic and applied sciences in order to broaden the S&T manpower-base in the province.
07. Coordinates with the public and private organizations in the implementation of manpower and institutional development programs in the province
08. Acts as focal person for the inter-agency meetings, conferences and other coordinative activities in the province, and
09. Responsible for the over-all supervision of services and operations of the PSTC
10. Ensures that the quality management system is properly implemented and maintained in accordance with ISO 9001-2008 standard in all aspect of operations of the PSTC; and
11. Performs other related functions as may be assigned by higher authorities from time to time.

Section 4. Qualifications of the Provincial S&T Director – The DOST in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall formulate the necessary qualification standards commensurate to the upgraded position of the Provincial Science and Technology Director at salary grade 27. The current PSTO holding the position for more than 20 years, shall have preference in the selection for Provincial Science and Technology Director position.

Section 5. Remuneration and other Benefits of the Provincial Director – The remuneration of the Provincial Science and Technology Director shall be equivalent to that of the same salary grade 27 in the government service and shall be entitled to reimbursable representation and transportation allowance commensurate to his office and other benefits as prescribed by law.

Section 6. Staff of the Provincial Science and Technology Office – There shall be a minimum of six (6) technical staff of the Provincial Science and Technology Office in addition to the Provincial Director and in addition of one non-technical officer. The DOST shall determine the level of these positions, provided that prescribed qualifications shall be in accordance with Civil Service laws and regulations.

Section 7. Funding– For the funding support for the implementation of this Act, the Department of Budget and Management will provide appropriation for this Act. The funds needed for the continuous operation of the various offices established under this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology.

All fees and charges collected as a result of S&T services rendered by the PSTOs such as, but not limited to, metrological work and calibration services shall be used by the PSTOs in the enhancement of their capabilities and in the maintenance of their equipment and facilities.

Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The Department of Science and Technology in coordination with other government agencies concerned shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 9. Separability Clause – If any part or provision of this Act are held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect,

Section 10. Repealing Clause – This Act repeals or modifies accordingly pertinent provisions of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Republic Act No. 6959 and any law, decree, rules and regulations, executive orders or proclamations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

Section 11. Effectivity – This Act shall be immediately upon compliance with existing regulations on publication.