



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 6896

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ESMAEL "TOTO" G. MANGUDADATU**



EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 17, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to give priority to education, science and technology, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Relatively, Section 1, Article XIV of the same Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Corollary to the above-mentioned Constitutional provisions, it is apparent that the State has the obligation to ensure that quality education must be accessible and afforded to all citizens, not just for economic functions but for socio-cultural aspirations as well.

The Province of Maguindanao is a sprawling province located in the south-eastern board of Mindanao. As of the 2015 census, the province has a total of 1,173,933 residents in its thirty-six (36) municipalities, of which 89.3% has basic literacy. Furthermore, using 2012 data, the province's human development index (HDI) was pegged by the Human Development Network and the Philippine Statistics Authority to be among the lowest in the country at 0.309.

Despite all the physical and human development efforts of the Provincial Government of Maguindanao from 2010 to 2019, the low rate of human development, the low level of academic, commercial and industrial competence of its pool of human resources relative to its neighboring provinces', and the deplorable poverty among its constituents may be attributed to many factors. Among the most notable factors are the persisting culture of poverty and fatalism, the past mismanagement and negligence of past local administrations, the violent past of the province and the continuing activities of terrorist and bandit groups that operate in the area, the lack of investments and other employment opportunities, and the lack of accessible government higher institutions for learning, training and skills development given the sprawling and geographic terrain of the province.

Despite the presence of the Mindanao State University – Maguindanao Campus in Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality and the Upi Agricultural School in Upi municipality, both in Maguindanao's First District, and the University of Southern Mindanao Extension Campus in District 2's Buluan municipality, there are still numerous students who are deprived of their right to education, especially those from the far-flung and interior communities, by reasons of accessibility and lack of financial resources and by other factors relating to institutional limitations including facility, faculty, and the very limited curriculum of the aforementioned government higher learning institutions in the province. Consequently, the province and its people are beset with many problems, which are solvable through proper education and training.

Thus, there is a need to create a unified university system in Maguindanao province, with a charter that allows it to expand to strategic municipalities in Maguindanao, to improve its facilities, and to tailor its faculty and curricular offerings in order to serve better the educational and training needs and aspirations of the people, especially the youth and the pool of local manpower.

Hence, this Bill seeks to initially unify the Mindanao State University – Maguindanao Campus in Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality, the Upi Agricultural School in Upi municipality, and the University of Southern Mindanao Extension Campus in Buluan municipality to be known as the Maguindanao State University.



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Introduced by **HON. ESMAEL "TOTO" G. MANGUDADATU**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MAGUINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY (MASU), PROVIDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU) MAGUINDANAO CAMPUS, MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY – GRADUATE SCHOOL MAGUINDANAO CAMPUS, THE UPI AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM) BULUAN EXTENSION CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Consolidation and Conversion. The Mindanao State University including its existing Graduate School campus, both in the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao; the University of Southern Mindanao Extension Campus in the municipality of Buluan; and the Upi Agricultural School in the municipality of Upi, all located in the Province of Maguindanao, are hereby consolidated and converted into a state university to be known as the Maguindanao State University, hereinafter referred to as the University.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of higher education relevant to the needs and demands of the people and the society, with primary focus on research and development for agriculture, physical and social sciences, the arts, and applied sciences.

SECTION 3. General Mandate. The Maguindanao State University (MaSU), hereinafter referred to as the University, shall primarily provide advanced instruction and professional training in education, law, arts and sciences, public administration, information technology, accountancy, business and industry, agriculture and forestry, engineering, indigenous knowledge and other relevant fields of study or training, especially those that promote and hone the comparative advantage of its clientele vis-à-vis those of the neighboring provinces or regions. It shall also undertake research and extension services, and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

SECTION 4. Curricular Offerings. The University shall offer undergraduate, graduate and short-term technical courses ladderized to undergraduate degrees within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives in order to meet the needs of the Province of Maguindanao, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and other nearby regions: Provided, That the University shall retain its original mandate as primarily an agricultural, technological and scientific institution: Provided, further, That in the case of graduate courses, the University shall strengthen its masters and doctorate degree programs in agriculture and other courses: Provided, furthermore, That no degree program shall be offered without the approval of the Commission on Higher Education before the same shall be approved by its Board.

The existing high school/s shall be transferred to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Department of Education (DepED): Provided, That the high school/s shall be allowed to remain and operate within the campus of the University until the existing students shall have completed their high school education: Provided, further, That the University may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school, if it has a College of Education.

SECTION 5. Administration. The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as "The Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents (BOR) and the President of the University who must render full-time service.

The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those specifically provided under this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar state universities and those delegated by the BOR.

The administration of the Graduate School Campus in Tamontaka, Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality, the Upi Campus, the Buluan Campus, and any other Maguindanao State University campus to be established in the future is vested in the respective Campus Director insofar as authorized by the BOR.

SECTION 6. Governing Board. The governing board of the University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Chairperson;
- (b) The President of the University, Vice Chairperson;
- (c) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate, member;
- (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives, member;
- (e) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), member;
- (f) The Minister of the BARMM Ministry of Agriculture and Aquatic Resources;
- (g) The President of the federation of faculty associations of the University, member;
- (h) The President of the federation of student councils of the University, member;
- (i) The President of the federation of alumni associations of the University, member; and
- (j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization of the University, members.

The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from among a list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Maguindanao, as recommended by the search committee constituted by the University President, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and the other members of the Board, based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position. The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

The term of office of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the President of the federation of student councils and the President of the federation of alumni associations shall be coterminous with their respective terms of office, as set forth in their respective constitutions and by-laws.

SECTION 7. Promulgation and Implementation of Policies. The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997".

SECTION 8. Rights and Responsibilities of the Board of Regents. The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties, in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under existing laws:

- (a) To promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;
- (b) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the University in the manner it may determine, in its discretion, in order to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;
- (c) To import duty-free economic, technical and cultural books and/or publications, upon certification by the CHED that such imported books and/or publications are for economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended;
- (d) To receive in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University and, subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any.

Such donations shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended: Provided, That such donations shall not be disposed of, transferred or sold;

- (e) To set the necessary school charges such as, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the involved sectors.

Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University.

Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension or other programs/projects of the University: Provided, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purpose for which these are collected.

If, for reason beyond its control, the University shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University;

- (f) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of school fees for greater access to poor but deserving students;
- (g) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;
- (h) To appoint, upon recommendation of the President of the University, Vice Presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty members and other officials and employees of the University;
- (i) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing laws to the contrary

notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;

(j) To approve the curricula, instructional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils as herein provided; Provided, that the University must also offer relevant short-term technical (ladderedized) courses leading to baccalaureate degrees;

(k) To prescribe rules for its own government and to enact for the government of the University such general ordinances and regulations, not contrary to law, as are consistent with the purposes of the University as defined in section two of this Act;

(l) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of agriculture, public service, arts, science and technology, education or in any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University; and to authorize the awarding of certificate of completion of non-degree and nontraditional courses;

(m) To establish and absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the Province of Maguindanao as branches and extension centers of the University in coordination with the CHED, and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and to offer therein programs or courses to promote and carry out equal and greater access to educational opportunities as mandated by the Constitution;

(n) To establish research and extension centers of the University where such will promote the development of the latter;

(o) To establish professorial chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;

(p) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove to the President or Officer-in-Charge and/or other officials of the University as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;

(q) To authorize an external management audit of the University, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA); and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of audit results and recommendations;

(r) To collaborate with other governing boards of state universities and colleges within the Province of Maguindanao or the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and work towards the restructuring of the University to become more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;

(s) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the same;

(t) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the University;

(u) To develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local and foreign, and to appoint experts/specialists as consultants, part-time or visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

(v) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual learning system, open learning or distance education and community laboratory for the promotion of greater access to higher education and graduate studies, as the case may be;

- (w) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and transparency within the University;
- (x) To privatize, where most advantageous to the University, the management of non-academic services such as health, food, building, grounds or property maintenance and such other similar activities;
- (y) To extend the term of the President of the University beyond the age of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), whose performance has been unanimously rated by the Board as outstanding based on the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, after unanimous recommendation by the search committee; and
- (z) To promote in the local, domestic and international fronts the history, culture, traditions, values, and comparative strengths of the people of Maguindanao and the Bangsamoro Region in a conscious effort to get other non-Bangsamoro people become better informed about the Maguindanao and Bangsamoro people, history, culture, traditions, values, and comparative strengths.

SECTION 9. Meetings/Sessions. — The Board shall regularly convene at least once every quarter. However, the Chairperson of the Board may, upon a three (3) days' prior written notice, call a maximum of two (2) special meetings whenever necessary.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office at the time of the meeting: Provided, however, that the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the University is among those present in the meeting.

In the absence of the Chairperson of the CHED, a Commissioner of the CHED, duly designated by him/her, shall represent him/her in the meeting with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: Provided, however, that during this meeting, the President of the University as Vice Chairperson shall be the Presiding Officer: Provided, further, that this proviso notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chair of the Board, in which case said CHED Commissioner shall act as the Presiding Officer.

In case the Chairpersons of the Congressional Committees on Education shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may duly designate their respective representatives to attend the said meeting, who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

The members of the Board shall not receive any salary but shall be entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either in their attendance to meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 10. The University President. The University shall be headed by a President, who shall render full-time service. He/She shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. He/She shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term: Provided, That in order to effect a smooth transition to a state university, the incumbent Chancellor of the Mindanao State University – Maguindanao Campus, if qualified, shall serve as the first President of the University.

Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President of the University, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency (SCP).

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of his/her office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the University within six (6) months from the date of vacancy, pending the appointment of a new President.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President as mentioned in the immediately preceding paragraph, his/her successor or the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term.

The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar universities, and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the President of the University shall be in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and shall be comparable to that being received by the Presidents of similar educational institutions.

The President of the University shall be assisted by the Vice President/s, who shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President.

SECTION 11. Minimum Qualifications of the Applicant for the Presidency. Any applicant for presidency of the University must possess the qualifications and standards set by the Board, in conjunction with the minimum qualifications and standards of a President, as adapted and practiced by similar state universities.

SECTION 12. The University Campuses. The seat of administration of the University shall be established in the Dalican, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao campus. Aside from the Graduate School campus in Tamontaka, Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality, the major campuses of the University shall be located in the municipalities of Buluan and Upi, both in the province of Maguindanao, notwithstanding the expansion of the University through the establishment of additional campuses or extensions in other Maguindanao municipalities as the Board deems fit and upon approval by the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of Budget and Management, and other government offices concerned.

SECTION 13. Heads of University Campuses. Campus Directors shall head the University campuses and they shall render full-time service. They shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the search committee and the University President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: Provided, that the incumbent college administrators of the extension campuses shall serve as Campus Directors of their respective campuses.

The campus directors shall serve a term of two (2) years, which may be renewed upon the recommendation of the University President to the Board of Regents.

SECTION 14. The Board Secretary. The Board shall appoint a Board Secretary, who shall likewise act as the University Secretary, to be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the University President. The Board Secretary shall keep all official records of the University and send notices of all regular meetings, special sessions and other undertakings of the Board.

SECTION 15. Ex Officio Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the ex officio treasurer of the University.

SECTION 16. Audit. All accounts and expenses of the University shall be audited by the Commission on Audit or its duly authorized representative.

SECTION 17. Administrative Council. There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the University as Chairperson, Vice Presidents, deans, directors and other officials of equal rank as members, whose duty is to review and recommend, in accordance with the direction of the Board, appropriate policies governing the administration, management and development planning of the University for the Board's action.

SECTION 18. Academic Council. There shall be an Academic Council to be composed of the President of the University, who shall act as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members.

The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the University, subject to the appropriate action by the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees,

subject to review and/or approval by the Board through the President of the University. It shall have the disciplinary power over students of the University and shall formulate academic policies and rules and regulations on discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

SECTION 19. Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy. The University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy as provided for in Batas Pambansa Blg. 323, otherwise known as the "Education Act of 1982", Republic Act No. 8292, and paragraph 2, Section 5, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution.

SECTION 20. The Faculty. No political belief, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, and religious affiliation or opinion shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the University; *Provided*, that no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SECTION 21. Appointments. Appointments of faculty shall be subject to the guidelines and qualifications and/or standards set by the Board. The University shall observe and comply with the provisions of the Salary Standardization Law and the scientific career system and shall continue to receive subsidy from the national government, including salary increases given to government employees in order to ensure the recruitment of the best minds in the sciences, arts and technology to deliver the mandated functions of the University.

SECTION 22. Nondiscrimination in Admission of Students. No student shall be discriminated against and denied admission to the University by reason of gender, nationality, tribe, religion, political affiliation, or physical disability.

SECTION 13. Tax Exemptions. The provisions of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding:

- a) All grants, endowments, donations and contributions made to the University to be used actually, directly and exclusively by the University shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended. Valuation of assistance other than money valuation shall take into consideration the depreciation value of the property in case the property has been used;
- b) Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical, and cultural supplies and materials duly certified by the Board, including scientific and educational computer and software equipment, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provision of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended; and
- c) The educational services rendered by the University shall be exempt from value-added tax in accordance with Section 109(H) of the NIRC of 1997, as amended.

SECTION 24. Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus/Equipment/Supplies and Detail of Personnel. The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the President of the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the University, and to detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of the bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to the public service.

The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the University, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular services.

SECTION 25. Assets, Liabilities and Personnel. All assets, fixed and movable, personnel and records of the Mindanao State University Datu Odin Sinsuat Campus, Mindanao State University Graduate School Tamontaka, Datu Odin Sinsuat Campus, University of Southern Mindanao Buluan Extension Campus, and the Upi Agricultural School, as well as liabilities or obligations, are hereby transferred to the University; *Provided*, however, That the positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the conversion into a University shall be respected.

All parcels of land belonging to the government and occupied by the above-mentioned campuses are hereby declared to be property of the University, and shall be titled under that name: Provided, That should the University cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of land aforementioned be no longer needed by the University, the same shall revert to the LGUs concerned.

SECTION 26. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Mindanao State University (MSU) Maguindanao Campus, Mindanao State University (MSU) Graduate School – Maguindanao Campus, Upi Agricultural School (UAS), and the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) Buluan Extension Campus. Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the continued operation, maintenance and expansion of the University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 27. Transitory Provision. For purposes of smooth transition into its University status, the incumbent Chancellor of MSU Maguindanao Campus shall serve a new first term as the President of the University.

SECTION 28. Development Plan, Management Audit, Organizational/Administrative/Academic Structure. Within the period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the following:

- (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to the CHED, for corresponding recommendation to the DBM;
- (b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and
- (c) Accordingly set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure, including the appointment of the key officials of the University.

SECTION 29. CHED Monitoring and Evaluation. The CHED shall conduct regular monitoring and evaluation to determine continuing compliance with the requirements on University status. In the event that the Commission finds that the University does not maintain compliance thereof, it shall submit the appropriate recommendation for the revocation of the University status to the Senate Committee on Higher and Basic Education, and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

SECTION 30. Filing of Report. On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second (2nd) month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines through the Chairperson of the CHED, and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, conditions and needs of the University.

SECTION 31. Suppletory Application. The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall be an integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the Governing Charter of the University.

SECTION 32. Parity Clause. All other powers, functions and privileges, responsibilities and limitations to state universities and/or their officials under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the University and/or its officials, whenever appropriate.

SECTION 33. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate the guidelines to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 34. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 35. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 36. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.