

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 329

Submitted by the Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Appropriations
on MAY 28 2020

Re: House Bill No. 6854
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2542
Sponsors: Representatives Mark O. Go, Eric Go Yap, and Paul Ruiz Daza

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Appropriations, to which was referred:

House Bill No. 2542, introduced by Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza, entitled:

“AN ACT
MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF THE BALICUATRO COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND TRADES (BCAT) WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN PHILIPPINES
(UEP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 6854, entitled:

“AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BALICUATRO COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEN, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, INTO
THE NORTHERN SAMAR POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 2542 and with Reps. Paul Ruiz Daza, Mark O. Go,
and Eric Go Yap as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

MARK O. GO
Chairperson
Committee on Higher and Technical Education

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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House Bill No. 6854

(in substitution of House Bill No. 2542)

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES PAUL RUIZ DAZA, MARK O. GO & ERIC GO YAP

**“AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BALICUATRO COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEN, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, INTO THE
NORTHERN SAMAR POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Northern Samar Polytechnic
2 Institute (NSPI) Act.”

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Conversion.*** - The Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades in the Municipality of Allen,
5 Province of Northern Samar, is hereby converted into a polytechnic institute, to be known as the
6 Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute (NSPI), hereinafter referred to as the Institute, under the
7 supervision and administration of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
8 (TESDA). It shall be established in a highly accessible location in the Municipality of Allen, Province
9 of Northern Samar, pursuant to the purposes of this Act, and to the mutual agreement of the TESDA
10 and the concerned local government unit (LGU).

11
12 **SEC. 3. *General Mandate.*** - In line with the adoption of the Philippine Qualifications
13 Framework (PQF) and the Senior High School Program of the Department of Education (DepEd), the
14 Institute shall endeavor to restructure its technical-vocational education and training (TVET)
15 curricular programs to make them responsive to the rapidly changing demands of the industry and the
16 labor market in both the domestic and global fronts, and within the context of the mutual recognition
17 arrangements embodied in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic integration
18 framework and other relevant international agreements for technical-vocational education.

19
20 The Institute shall endeavor to offer higher level competency qualifications in TVET programs
21 and shall continue to upgrade its curricular standards as a TESDA polytechnic educational institution
22 that caters to wide-ranging specialized technical, creative and conceptual knowledge and skills
23 demonstrating depth and complexity in the planning, evaluation, initiation and management of
24 approaches to competency compliant technical skills and functional knowledge application.

25
26 The Institute shall offer a wide array of one (1)-year to three (3)-year TESDA-registered TVET
27 programs and certificate courses, and shall aim to meet the competency requirements under Level V of
28 the PQF, which is the Diploma Level in TVET. It shall primarily provide undergraduate technical-

1 vocational education, and shall likewise ensure the provision of various skills trainings and trade
2 specialization courses relevant to the needs of the province, specifically geared towards the acquisition
3 of employable skills, gainful employment, practical livelihood and entrepreneurship.
4

5 The Institute shall play a lead role in helping students and out-of-school youths and residents
6 from low-income families and persons with disabilities in the Municipality of Allen and adjacent
7 municipalities in the Province of Northern Samar become productive and self-reliant, and to become
8 part of a globally competitive middle to high-level skilled labor force to hasten the social and
9 economic development of the Province of Northern Samar, in particular, as well as meet the
10 manpower needs of both local and international labor markets, in general.
11

12 The Institute shall consider in the design of relevant TVET training programs and course
13 offerings a competency assessment of the socioeconomic profile, employment conditions and
14 opportunities, business climate, market and industry potentials, resources available and presence of
15 support structures, including the literacy level and skills readiness, and the overall development needs
16 of the host area, Allen, and adjacent communities within the operational radius of the Institute. It shall
17 likewise consider the relevant skills and trade competencies, craftsmanship training programs and
18 entrepreneurship activities needed to deliver the effective employment and development interventions
19 required to make Allen and all localities comprising the Province of Northern Samar human resource
20 and economic productivity hubs.
21

22 The Institute shall also serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired
23 competencies in technical-vocational skills in the entire Province of Northern Samar.
24

25 Priority admission to the Institute, including scholarships, grants-in-aid and student financial
26 assistance, however, shall be given to the most disadvantaged citizens of the Municipality of Allen and
27 to the most economically depressed areas in the province.
28

29 Further, as deemed necessary and practicable, in coordination with the DepEd and the TESDA,
30 the Institute shall render relevant teachers' training assistance and curriculum design offering the
31 technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the DepEd and TESDA in the communities and
32 areas within the operational radius of the Institute.
33

34 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offering/ Training Programs.** - The Institute shall offer one (1)-year to
35 three (3)-year diploma courses and undergraduate certificate, including short-term courses and
36 modular trainings in diverse relevant technical-vocational and industrial technology education to
37 comply with employment standards in preferred market-driven labor opportunities, but shall give
38 premium efforts, however, to skills specialization for local market employment requirements geared
39 towards achieving the development needs for a robust inclusive economy of the Municipality of Allen
40 and the other municipalities in the Province of Northern Samar, in coordination with the Department
41 of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of
42 the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority,
43 business-industry partners, and such other relevant agencies.
44

45 The Institute may establish research and technology hubs, mobile training programs, and
46 satellite or extension training centers in priority areas throughout the Province of Northern Samar to
47 strengthen linkages among industry, the academe, and the technology programs of the Institute. It shall
48 likewise adopt the use of innovative training modes such as information technology-assisted
49 instruction, dual learning system, open distance learning, community laboratory, and such other
50 instructional programs to afford the community greater access to TVET and other skills training
51 programs.
52

53 The Institute shall offer TESDA-registered TVET courses and short-term training programs.
54 Course completion in these programs shall be credited through skills competency assessment under

1 National Certification (NC) Levels I to V, as applicable, and shall further qualify for academic
2 recognition under the Ladderized Interface System for tertiary education, if compliant with the
3 requirements under the said program.
4

5 The Institute shall offer skills development options for higher competency qualifications in
6 technical-industrial education, trade technology, tourism, agricultural technology, business literacy,
7 and innovation in TESDA-registered skills courses as follows:

- 8 a. Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steelwork,
9 machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanical
10 assembly, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of power tools and
11 equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;
12
- 13 b. Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such areas as
14 farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based
15 aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm tools and equipment operation,
16 agribusiness and agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant farmers and
17 fisherfolks' trainings for increased productivity and entrepreneurship;
18
- 19 c. Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale
20 entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts, workmanship and
21 design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture, livestock raising and
22 breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial
23 cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;
24
- 25 d. Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, practical
26 accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and application
27 procedures, including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and
28 intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing,
29 import-export accreditation, online home-based business operation, and use of social media
30 business marketing;
31
- 32 e. Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing,
33 welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing,
34 personal computer servicing, and such other relevant practical skills courses;
35
- 36 f. Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, digital technology, web
37 design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design, and advertising;
38
- 39 g. Social communication skills development and language proficiency courses in English and
40 other languages for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job placement;
41
- 42 h. Seminars on personality development, career counseling and job placement, and work
43 ethic and values; and
44
- 45 i. Other preferred priority skills that may be needed by the people of Allen and relevant to the
46 needs of the other service areas in the Province of Northern Samar to enhance their
47 capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment and entrepreneurship skills.
48

49 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** - The provisions of this Act
50 notwithstanding, the conversion of the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades into the Northern Samar
51 Polytechnic Institute shall become operationally effective only upon the determination and declaration
52 of the TESDA through the issuance of a formal recommendation and Certificate of Compliance that
53 the Institute has satisfactorily complied with the minimum requirements for standards of quality

1 prescribed by the TESDA governing the following: (a) Standard procedures and guidelines for the
2 establishment, or conversion and operation of a polytechnic institute; (b) Operational sustainability of
3 the Institute in terms of licensed faculty/trainers and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory
4 facilities, instructional materials, and other standard requirements as an Institute; (c) Sustainable
5 funding source and allocation of budget requirement of the Institute; (d) Full alignment of the training
6 programs offered with the minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-vocational skills
7 technology and needs of the host municipality, Allen, and adjacent areas served within the context of
8 the PQF and ASEAN framework for technical-vocational education; and (e) Compliance with such
9 other TESDA conditionalities as may be necessary and applicable in its conversion into the Northern
10 Samar Polytechnic Institute.

11
12 **SEC. 6. Administration.** - The Institute shall be headed by a School Superintendent under the
13 supervision of the TESDA and appointed by the TESDA Director General in accordance with the rules
14 and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the qualification requirements and standards for
15 such office.

16
17 The School Superintendent shall render full-time services and be responsible for the
18 administration and operation of the Institute.

19
20 The academic and administrative staff of the Institute shall be organized according to the
21 staffing pattern prescribed by the TESDA for such type of schools pursuant to existing laws, rules and
22 regulations.

23
24 **SEC. 7. Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.** - All assets, fixed and movable, personnel, records
25 and documents of the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades, as well as liabilities or obligations, shall
26 be transferred to the Institute: *Provided*, That the positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty and
27 personnel therein employed pursuant to existing laws prior to its conversion into the Institute shall not
28 be impaired.

29
30 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the Balicuatro College of Arts
31 and Trades are hereby declared property of the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute and shall be titled
32 under that name: *Provided*, That, should the Institute cease to exist or such aforementioned parcels of
33 land be no longer needed by the Institute, the same shall revert to the LGU concerned, or to the
34 Municipality of Allen, Province of Northern Samar.

35
36 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** - The amount needed to initially implement the provisions of this Act
37 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades.
38 Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Northern Samar
39 Polytechnic Institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

40
41 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days after the approval of
42 this Act, the TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, Department of Budget and Management,
43 DILG, the concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the
44 host locality, shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
45 implementation of this Act.

46
47 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall be deemed
48 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall
49 remain in force and in effect.

50
51 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and
52 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are repealed or amended
53 accordingly.

1 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity*.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
2 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3
4 *Approved,*