

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 5885



Introduced by **Hon. Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was previously filed by Representative Frederick F. Abueg as House Bill (H.B.) No. 4745 in the 16th Congress. It was again filed as H.B. No. 204 during the 17th Congress wherein it was substituted as H.B. No. 9098. As such it was approved on its Third Reading by the House of Representatives on May 27, 2019 and transmitted to the Senate of the Philippines on May 28, 2019.

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7818 for the purpose of strengthening the administrative supervision of the Palawan State University (PSU) over PSU-Local Government Unit-College of Community Resource Development (PSU-LGU-CCRD) campuses and providing for the latter's integration with the PSU Main Campus at Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan.

PSU started as Palawan Teachers' College (PTC) in 1972. In 1984, PTC was converted into Palawan State College (PSC). In 1994, PSC became PSU. Through the years, PSU has made significant contributions to the human and non-human resource development in Palawan by pursuing its mandate in instruction, research, extension and production. PSU has earned an excellent reputation and garnered various commendations as an outstanding academic institution.

From 1984 to 1992, PSU embarked on the operation of Development High Schools at a time when access to secondary education was quite difficult for the rural youth in Palawan. Later, PSU phased down these high schools in order to focus on tertiary education as directed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). In response to the request of the LGUs to establish campuses in their respective jurisdictions, PSU subsequently changed its high schools into tertiary education institutions. To date, twenty (20) CCRDs are operating in Palawan.

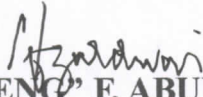
The operation of each CCRD is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement entered into by the LGU, the Parent Teacher Council (PTC) of the town and PSU. The LGU provides the infrastructure and extends funding for the salaries of faculty and staff. The PTC collects school fees and uses these funds to help meet operations expenses and acquisition of facilities. PSU manages the CCRD and provides the faculty and non-teaching staff for these centers.

Through the years, the student population and operation costs of the CCRDs have steadily increased. The total financial assistance provided by LGUs has likewise climbed from about P500,000.00 in the early stages of the centers to almost P10,000,000.00 at present. The PTCs have been charging enrollees amounts ranging from P8,000.00 to P12,000.00 per year. On account of these funding requirements, most of the LGUs in recent years have been trying to scale down their support or to withdraw assistance, while the parents, all of whom come from the depressed areas and low-income households, have been clamoring for lower school fees.

Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates that "the State shall establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education, relevant to the needs of the people and society." In consonance with this mandate, CHED has been continuously adopting means to provide the youth with affordable, accessible, relevant and quality tertiary education. Aligned with CHED, PSU has nurtured and operated the CCRDs which to date have already served no less than 20,000 rural youths.

Thus, to continue providing access and quality tertiary education to the rural youth in Palawan, this bill intends to secure adequate and automatic funding for these CCRDs from the national government and to strengthen the administrative supervision of PSU over the same in order to achieve maximum results. These amendments to the law are imperative because maintaining status quo would in effect deprive a significant number of rural youths the opportunity to pursue tertiary education.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5885

Introduced by **Hon. Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar**

AN ACT

**INTEGRATING THE PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF
COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PSU-CCRD) EXTERNAL
CAMPUSES IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND IN THE CITY OF
PUERTO PRINCESA AS REGULAR CAMPUSES OF THE PALAWAN STATE
UNIVERSITY (PSU), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO.7818, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7818, otherwise known as the "Palawan
State University Charter", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION. 1. xxx

THE PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PSU-CCRD) EXTERNAL CAMPUSES IN THE
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA,
NAMELY, PSU-NARRA, PSU-QUEZON, PSU-BROOKE'S POINT, PSU-ROXAS,
PSU-TAYTAY, AND PSU-CORON CAMPUSES, SHALL BE INTEGRATED AS
REGULAR CAMPUSES OF THE PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY.

THE PSU-CCRD EXTERNAL CAMPUSES IN THE PROVINCE OF
PALAWAN AND IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA, NAMELY, PSU-
ESPANOLA, PSU-RIZAL, PSU-BATARAZA, PSU-BALABAC, PSU-DUMARAN,
PSU-SAN VICENTE, PSU LINAPACAN, AND OTHER BRANCHES SHALL BE
INTEGRATED AS REGULAR BRANCHES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE PSU MAIN CAMPUS, THE PSU-CUYO CAMPUS (FORMERLY
PALAWAN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADE) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF

1 CUYO, PALAWAN, WHICH WAS INTEGRATED INTO THE MAIN CAMPUS,
2 AND THE REGULAR CAMPUSES AND TECHNOLOGY BRANCHES OF PSU
3 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE COLLECTIVELY REFERRED TO
4 AS THE UNIVERSITY."

5 **SEC 2.** Section 3 of RA No. 7818 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 "SEC. 3. The University shall CONTINUE TO offer ITS PRESENT
7 undergraduate and graduate [courses] CURRICULAR OFFERINGS in the fields of
8 education, arts and sciences, and other degree courses as the B[b]oard of R[r]egents,
9 HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE BOARD, may deem necessary IN
10 ORDER THAT IT CAN EFFECTIVELY [to] carry out its objectives [.]
11 CONSISTENT WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
12 GOALS. It shall also CONTINUE TO offer [opportunity in] short-term technical-
13 vocational courses within its areas of specialization to meet the needs of the nation."

14 **SEC. 3.** Section 4 of RA No. 7818 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 "SEC. 4. The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth
16 in the corporation law. The administration of the University and the exercise of its
17 corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the [b]Board and the [p]President of
18 the University, [insofar] as authorized by the [b]Board.

19 EACH REGULAR CAMPUS SHALL BE HEADED BY AN
20 ADMINISTRATOR, WHO SHALL RENDER FULL-TIME SERVICE. THE
21 ADMINISTRATOR SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD UPON THE
22 RECOMMENDATION OF A DULY CONSTITUTED SEARCH COMMITTEE
23 AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY, SUBJECT TO THE
24 GUIDELINES, QUALIFICATIONS, AND STANDARDS SET BY THE BOARD.
25 THE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS
26 AND SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR REAPPOINTMENT FOR ANOTHER TERM.

27 IN CASE OF VACANCY BY REASON OF DEATH, RESIGNATION,
28 REMOVAL FOR CAUSE, OR THE INCAPACITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
29 TO PERFORM THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE, THE BOARD
30 MAY DESIGNATE AN OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE CAMPUS PENDING
31 THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW ADMINISTRATOR. THE OFFICER-IN-
32 CHARGE OR THE SUCCESSOR SHALL SERVE ONLY DURING THE
33 UNEXPIRED PORTION OF THE TERM."

SEC. 4. Section 9 of RA No. 7818 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. The University shall be headed by a president to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Board and shall hold office for a term of [six (6)] FOUR (4) years, [without reappointment] SUBJECT TO REAPPOINTMENT FOR ONE (1) MORE TERM unless THE PRESIDENT reaches the MANDATORY age of retirement or earlier removed for cause, or IS incapacitated to discharge the duties of the office: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE CURRENT UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SHALL CONTINUE TO HOLD OFFICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM, UNLESS REAPPOINTED OR IS SOONER REMOVED FOR CAUSE, OR IS INCAPACITATED TO DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE, OR HAS REACHED THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE.

In case of a vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, resignation, incapacity of the President to perform the functions of [his] THE office, or removal for cause, the Board [shall have the authority to] MAY designate an [o]Officer-in-[c]Charge of the University pending the appointment of a successor. The new President shall hold office for the unexpired PORTION OF THE term OF THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT, but in no case shall [his] THE term be more than [six (6)] FOUR (4) years subject to the provisions of [the preceding paragraph] EXISTING LAWS."

XXX

SEC. 5. Section 20 of RA No. 7818 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 20. The heads of bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer TO THE UNIVERSITY OR ITS CAMPUSES, upon request of the President of the University, such apparatus, equipment, or supplies as may be needed by the University OR ITS CAMPUSES and to detail employees for duty therein when in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to the public service. The employee 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 service."

SEC. 6. A new Section after Section 21 is hereby inserted as Sec. 21-A to read as follows:

1 "SEC. 21-A. THE UNIVERSITY IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS THE
2 NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR PETROLEUM AND RENEWABLE
3 ENERGY. AS SUCH, THE UNIVERSITY, IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR
4 POWERS AND FUNCTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN ITS CHARTER, SHALL :

- 5 a. PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY;
- 6 b. DEVELOP DATABASE FOR PETROLEUM AND ENERGY SECTORS TO
7 SERVE AS RESOURCE TO THE COUNTRY'S POLICY MAKERS;
- 8 c. CONDUCT RESEARCHES, CASE STUDIES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
9 STEPS FOR THE CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM AND
10 ENERGY INDUSTRIES; AND
- 11 d. PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE LEGISLATORS IN THE ANALYSIS AND
12 FORMULATION OF POLICIES CONCERNING ENERGY AND ISSUES
13 AFFECTING PETROLEUM.

14 **SEC. 7.** Section 22 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 "SEC. 22. All the assets, fixed and movable, records, and personnel of [the
16 Palawan State College,] ALL EXISTING PSU CAMPUSES IN THE SOUTHERN
17 PART OF PALAWAN AND IN OTHER BRANCHES THAT MAY BE
18 ESTABLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY, as well as [THEIR] liabilities or obligations,
19 are hereby transferred to the University: *Provided, however,* that the positions, rights,
20 and security of tenure of faculty and staff members employed therein under existing
21 laws prior to [absorption by the university] INTEGRATION OF THE PSU-CCRD
22 EXTERNAL CAMPUSES AS REGULAR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES [are] SHALL
23 not BE impaired: *Provided further,* That the [incumbent of the positions shall remain
24 in the same status until otherwise provided for by the Board] PRESENT SUPPORT OF
25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) TO THE EXISTING PSU-CCRDS SHALL
26 NOT BE ABRIDGED. All parcels of land belonging to the government AND occupied
27 by the [Palawan State College] UNIVERSITY AND ITS EXISTING CAMPUSES
28 AND PSU-CCRD EXTERNAL CAMPUSES are hereby declared to be the property of
29 the [Palawan State] University and shall be titled under that name: *Provided,* That
30 should the University cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of
31 aforementioned be no longer needed by the University CAMPUSES, the same shall
32 revert to the [Province of Palawan] MUNICIPALITY OR CITY WHICH HAS
33 JURISDICTION OVER THE SAME."

34 **SEC. 8.** Section 23 of RA No. 7818 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 "SEC. 23. The amount necessary [for the] TO CARRY OUT THE INITIAL
36 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's [appropriations
37 of the Palawan State College. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its

1 operation and maintenance shall be] FUNDING BY THE PSU-CCRD EXTERNAL
2 CAMPUSES PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY, THE PROVINCE OF
3 PALAWAN AND THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA SHALL CONTINUE TO
4 PROVIDE THE SAME ASSISTANCE UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE FULL
5 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF THE PSU MAIN CAMPUS AND ALL THE
6 UNIVERSITY BRANCHES ARE included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

7 *PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT EACH PSU-CCRD EXTERNAL CAMPUS*
8 *SHALL BE ALLOCATED ITS OWN BUDGET FOR EVERY FISCAL YEAR, AND*
9 *RELEASE OF THE SAME SHALL BE MADE DIRECTLY TO EACH SUCH*
10 *CAMPUS, SUBJECT TO AUDITING RULES AND REGULATIONS. "*

11 **SEC. 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
12 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

13 *Approved,*