

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2901**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Technical Education and Skills Training Development Center in the University town of Kabacan, Province of (North) Cotabato.

Education is fundamental to the realization of inclusive growth. As it begets knowledge and culture, education finds its practical articulation and demonstration in the world of work. Thus knowledge, as it is inextricably embedded with people replete with ideas and bursting with entrepreneurial spirits, is valued as the key strategic resource to achieving growth objectives. Commitment to education acknowledges the different pathways toward acquiring knowledge, of which technical vocational education and training, as a path when taken in conjunction with other education and training pathways, is recognized to be one primary knowledge building block.

The establishment of an accessible technical education and skills development center within the University of Southern Mindanao campus will not only focus in the development of mainstream Filipino middle-level manpower but as well as open the path to further develop and enhance the abilities of our local farmers and encourage the younger generation to consider farming as an alternative trade. Taking cognizance of the fact that regions vary in their economic and human resource potentials, the North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center will serve as the pioneer skills training institution to offer short term courses in market-driven and relevant technical vocational courses and agriculture related technical-vocational training and skills development programs.

The North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center will serve the noble purpose of providing students with basic practical knowledge and technical expertise in their desired area of competency thus enabling them to become productive and self reliant partners in the achievement of social and economic development

Hence the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Province of Cotabato

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**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
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House Bill No. **2901**

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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA**

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**AN ACT**

**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), KABACAN, COTABATO TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTH COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER, 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 "*North Cotabato TESDA Training and*  
2 *Accreditation Center Act.*"

3  
4 **SECTION 2. *Establishment.*** - There is hereby established a Technical Education and Skills  
5 Development Center in the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), Kabacan, Cotabato, under the  
6 supervision of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to be known as  
7 the North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center.  
8

9 **SECTION 3. *General Mandate.*** - The North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center shall  
10 primarily provide technical-vocational training and skills development programs to students from  
11 low-income families and out-of-school youth in the entire Province of (North) Cotabato. It shall play  
12 a pivotal role in helping the students become productive, self reliant and to develop into middle-  
13 level skilled labor force so as to hasten the social and economic development of (North) Cotabato, as  
14 well as meet the needs of both local and international labor markets.  
15

16 The North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center shall also serve as the  
17 assessment center for acquired competencies in technical-vocational skills in the whole Province of  
18 (North) Cotabato. Further, as deemed necessary and practicable, in coordination with the  
19 Department of Education (DepEd), it shall render relevant teachers training assistance and  
20 curriculum design to the secondary schools offering technical-vocational education under the K to 12  
21 (K-12) program of DepEd.  
22

23 Furthermore, the North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center shall also serve  
24 as a special center for agriculture related technical-vocational training and skills development  
25 programs, such as but not limited to farm operations, backyard farming, agriculture technology  
26 innovation, farm tools and equipment operations and such other trainings on farming and  
27 agriculture that will further enhance the abilities of our local farmers at the same time encourage  
28 the younger generation to consider farming as an alternative trade.  
29

30 **SECTION 4. *Curricular Offerings.*** - The North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center  
31 shall offer short-term courses in preferred market-driven and relevant technical-vocational courses

within its areas of specialization including short-term courses on farming and agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and such other relevant agencies, both local and international.

**SECTION 5. *School Site.*** – The North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center shall be established on a site in the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) Compound, Kabacan, Cotabato, which is highly accessible pursuant to the purposes of this Act and to the mutual agreement between TESDA, USM and the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU).

**SECTION 6. *Administration.*** - The North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center shall be headed by a Technical-Vocational Administrator under the supervision of TESDA. The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall be appointed by the TESDA Director-General in accordance with civil service rules and regulations and the qualification requirements of TESDA.

The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall render full-time services and shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the North Cotabato TESDA Training and Accreditation Center

**SECTION 7. *Appropriations.*** – The Director-General of TESDA shall immediately include in the Authority's program the implementation of this Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current years appropriation of TESDA. Thereafter the amount necessary for the continued operation of the said skills training and accreditation center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, TESDA, in coordination with DOLE, DA, USM, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Provincial Government of Cotabato, the Local Government Unit of Kabacan, and such other relevant agencies shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

**SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.***—All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.***—This Act shall take effect immediately after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,