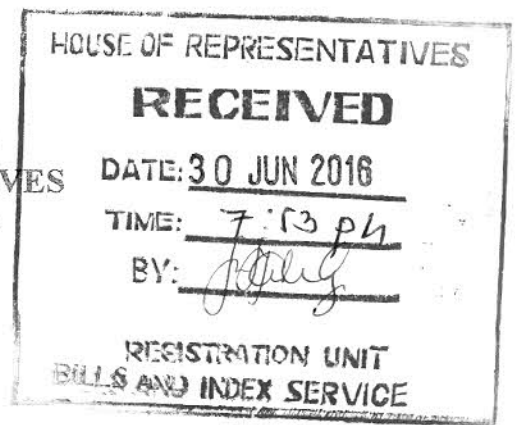


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 204



Introduced by **Hon. Frederick F. Abueg**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was filed in the Sixteenth Congress as House Bill No. 4745 and was later on substituted as House Bill No. 6058. The bill was approved on its Third Reading on the House of Representatives on September 9, 2015. It was transmitted to the Senate of the Philippines on September 14, 2015.

It is the fervent hope of the Palaweños to have a comprehensive Palawan State University System in Palawan to serve the needs of the students, faculty and staff and visiting scholars. This is necessary to improve the quality of life in the province by providing access to quality tertiary education to all. The explanation found herewith is a reiteration *in toto* of the House Bill 6058.

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) by defining the integration of the PSU-Local Government Unit-College of Community Resource Development (PSU-LGU-CCRD) campuses with the PSU Main Campus at Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan and establishing the Palawan State University System.

PSU started as Palawan Teachers' College (PTC) in 1972. In 1984, PTC was converted into Palawan State College (PSC) and in 1994, PSC became PSU.

PSU has already contributed a lot to the human and non-human resources development in Palawan by pursuing its mandate in instruction, research, extension and production. It has earned an excellent reputation with its selection as one of the Centers of Excellence in Teacher Education in Region IV in 1996; the Panrehiyong Sentro ng Wika since 1995; the Reproductive Health Center since 1995; the Learning Center of the University of the Philippines – Open University since 1989; the

Regional Science Teacher Training Center and the Regional Staff Development Center from 1977 to 1984.

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 CCRDs are operating in Palawan.

In the operation of each CCRD, the LGU and the Parent Teacher Council (PTC) of the town where it is set up on one hand, and PSU on the other hand, enter into a Memorandum of Agreement. The LGU provides the site, buildings, classroom facilities, and extends funding for the salaries of faculty and staff. The PTC collects school fees from the enrollees and uses the funds to help meet operations expenses and acquisition of facilities. PSU manages the CCRD and provides the faculty and non-teaching staff of these centers.

Through the years, the student population and operation costs of the CCRDs have been increasing. 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 the CHED thrusts, PSU has nurtured and operated the CCRDs that to date, the CCRDs 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, the bill intends to secure funding support for these centers from the national government and to strengthen the administrative supervision of PSU in order to achieve maximum output. These twin moves are imperative because leaving the

CCRDs as they are would mean depriving a significant number of rural youth the opportunity to pursue tertiary education. It also means discarding the costly task of operating the CCRD which is estimated at about twenty (20) times more than the costs entailed for the conversion of the centers into regular branches and the latter's subsequent operation.

The budgets of all state universities and colleges come from the national government. In the case of the CCRDs, as proposed in this bill, funds shall come not only from the national government but also from the LGUs and the parents. The CCRDs, therefore, more than deserve to be provided subsidies for their continuing operation.

Rationalizing the circular offerings, organization and management in the CCRDs cannot be achieved because, at present, the CCRD Budget comes largely from the LGUs and parents. Defining the integration of the CCRDS as regular branches of PSU in order to strengthen their governance and providing national government subsidy for their sustained operation, as proposed in this bill, would definitely result in better efficiency in the delivery of quality tertiary education in Palawan. Education has been recognized as a social service, an investment, an economically feasible activity, and a high impact strategy for people empowerment and socio-economic development.

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



FREDERICK F. ABUEG
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 204

Introduced by **Hon. Frederick F. Abueg**

AN ACT
CREATING THE PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN THE
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7818

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to
2 read as follows:

3 “Section 1. The Palawan State University (PSU)
4 System is hereby created, composed of the PSU Main
5 Campus in Puerto Princesa City and the PSU-LGU-CCRD
6 external campuses located in the Province of Palawan, which
7 are hereby converted into regular branches, namely, PSU-
8 Narra, PSU-Quezon, PSU-Rizal, PSU-Española, PSU-
9 Brooke’s Point, PSU-Bataraza, PSU-Balabac, PSU-Roxas,
10 PSU-San Vicente, PSU-Taytay, PSU-Coron, PSU-Araceli,
11 PSU-Dumaran, PSU-Linapacan, PSU-El Nido and the others
12 that may be organized hereinafter. The Palawan State
13 University Main Campus and the regular branches shall be
14 collectively referred to herein as the University.”

15
16 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read as
17 follows:

1 “Section 3. The University shall continue to offer its
2 present undergraduate and graduate circular offerings in the
3 fields of education, arts and sciences, and other degree
4 courses as the board of regents may deem necessary to carry
5 out its objectives, and consistent with the goals of local,
6 regional and national development. It shall also continue to
7 offer opportunity in short-term technical or vocational courses
8 within its areas of specialization to meet the needs of the
9 nation. Provided, however, that existing and future programs
10 pertaining to instruction, research, extension and production,
11 organization, administrative as well as academic structures,
12 including the appointment of the University key officials shall
13 be rationalized by the University Board of Regents.”
14

15 **SEC. 3.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read
16 as follows:

17 “Section 4. The University shall have the general
18 powers of a corporation set forth in the corporation law. The
19 administration of the University and the exercise of its
20 corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the board of
21 regents and the president of the University insofar as
22 authorized by the board. An administrator, appointed by the
23 Board of Regents and whose appointment papers shall be
24 signed by the University President, shall head each regular
25 branch.”
26

27 **SEC. 4.** Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read
28 as follows:

29 “Section 9. The University shall be headed by a
30 president to be appointed by the President of the Philippines
31 upon recommendation of the Board and shall hold office for

1 a term of four (4) years but entitled for reappointment for the
2 second term unless he reaches the age of retirement or earlier
3 removed for cause or incapacitated to discharge the duties of
4 the office. Provided, that the current University President
5 shall continue to hold office for the remainder of his term,
6 unless he is reappointed or is sooner removed for cause, or is
7 incapacitated to discharge the duties of his office, or reaches
8 the retirement age.

9 In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by
10 reason of death, resignation, incapacity of the University
11 President to perform the functions of his office, or removal
12 for cause, the Board shall have the authority to designate an
13 officer-in-charge of the University pending the appointment
14 of a successor. The new President shall hold office for the
15 unexpired term but in no case shall his term be more than
16 four (4) years subject to the provision of the existing laws.

17 The powers and duties of the President of the
18 University, in addition to those specifically provided in this
19 Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the
20 president of a university. The University President shall have
21 administration and supervision of the University branches.

22 The salary of the President of the University shall be
23 fixed by the Board and shall be comparable to that being
24 received by the president of similar educational institutions
25 of like enrollment and standing subject to the Revised
26 Compensation and Position Classification System.”

27
28 **SEC. 5.** Section 20 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read
29 as follows:

1 “Section 20. Establishment of the following campuses
2 as National Research Center will be an inherent function of
3 the University as part of its research and extension services.

- 4 a) Establishing a National Research Center for Petroleum and
5 Renewable Energy within the vicinity of the PSU Main campus;
6 b) PSU - Brooke’s Point Campus as National Research Center for
7 Protection and Preservation of Mount Mantalingahan and its
8 Landscape; Cultural Preservation and Tourism development of
9 the Municipality of Brooke’s Point;
10 c) PSU - Quezon Campus as National Research Center for
11 Protection, Preservation and Promotion of Tabon Cave
12 Complex and Its Landscape; Cultural Preservation and Tourism
13 Development of the Municipality of Quezon;
14 d) PSU - Narra Campus as National Research Center for
15 Philippine Cockatoo Conservation and National Research
16 Center for Rice Production in the Province of Palawan and in
17 the entire Region;
18 e) PSU - Balabac Campus as National Research Center for
19 Cultural and Mouse Deer preservation and Tourism
20 Development in the Municipality of Balabac;
21 f) PSU - Coron Campus as National Research Center for Cultural
22 and Tourism Development in the Municipality of Coron and
23 nearby municipalities;
24 g) Establishing the College of Hospitality Management as National
25 Research Center for Hospitality and Tourism Development in
26 the Province of Palawan.”

27
28 **SEC. 6.** Section 21 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read
29 as follows:

30 “Section 21. The heads of bureaus and offices of the
31 national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer,

1 upon request of the President of the University, such
2 apparatus, equipment, or supplies as may be needed by the
3 University and to detail employees for duty therein when in
4 the judgment of the head of bureau or office, such apparatus,
5 equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be
6 spared without serious detriment to the public service. The
7 employee so detailed shall perform such duties as required of
8 them by the President of the University and the time so
9 employed shall be counted as part of their regular service.”

10
11 **SEC. 7.** Section 22 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read
12 as follows:

13 “Sec. 22. It shall be a continuing policy of the
14 University to accept the affiliation and/or integration within
15 its operation of any existing national schools whose program
16 can contribute largely and effectively to the attainment of its
17 objectives: provided, however, that in case of integration, the
18 Chairman, Commission on Higher Education is hereby
19 authorized to determine and approve the specific existing
20 national schools that are to be integrated as part of the PSU
21 System. In this particular case, it is understood that all funds,
22 properties and other assets, as well as obligations of the
23 integrated schools shall be transferred to the University.”

24
25 **SEC. 8.** Section 23 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read
26 as follows:

27 “Section 23. All assets, fixed and movable, personnel
28 and records of all existing PSU Campuses in the Southern
29 part of Palawan and other branches that may be established
30 by the University as well as their liabilities or obligations are
31 hereby transferred to the University. Provided, however, that

1 the position, rights and security of tenure of faculty and staff
2 members employed therein under existing laws prior to the
3 integration of the PSU-LGU-CCRD external campuses as
4 regular University branches shall not be impaired. Provided
5 further, that the present support of local government units
6 (LGUs) to the existing PSU-LGU-CCRDs shall not be
7 abridged, curtailed or diminished.

8 All parcels of land belonging to the government and
9 occupied by the present campuses of existing PSU-LGU-
10 CCRDs shall be titled in the name of the University.
11 Provided, that should the University cease to exist or be
12 abolished or should such parcels of aforementioned lands be
13 no longer needed by the University branches, the same shall
14 revert to the municipality which has jurisdiction over the
15 same.”

16
17 **SEC. 9.** Section 24 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to read
18 as follows:

19 “Section 24. The amount necessary to carry out the
20 provisions of this Act for the continued operation and
21 maintenance of the PSU Main Campus and all the University
22 branches shall be included in the annual General
23 Appropriations Act.

24 In case of deficiency in the funding requirement herein
25 provided, such amount as may be necessary shall be
26 augmented by the income derived from any school project,
27 the financial support of the LGU, and from other fees that the
28 University Board of Regents may approve.”

29
30 **SEC. 10.** Section 25 of Republic Act No. 7818 is hereby amended to
31 read as follows:

1 “Section 25. All laws, presidential decrees, executive
2 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with
3 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
4 modified accordingly.”
5

6 **SEC. 11.** All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and
7 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
8 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
9

10 **SEC. 12.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication
11 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,