



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

5983

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session



**Introduced by HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN and
HON. AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Educators and economists agree in the assertion that science and technology is a strong pillar and significant driver of economic development, educational advancements and environmental protection, among others. It enables us to move forward through technology and allows us to adapt to the changing times.

However, in the 2019 Global Competitiveness Report, the Philippines fell from its previous ranking of 56 in 2018 to 64, down by eight notches. The ranking system takes into consideration eight 11 pillars. Two of these pillars are innovation capability and ICT adoption, where the country recorded its biggest decline from 67th place last year to 88th in 2019. In another study - the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) report - the Philippines ranked poorly at 76th in the sub-category of Innovation Input, attributed to a lack of scientists and engineers.

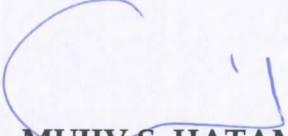
This affirms a sad reality in our country today: that the state of science and technology and innovation in our country lag behind world standards. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) suggests a ratio of 380 scientists per every million population, or ideally 19,000 scientists for our country to be a significant force for research and development. Government data puts the number at 189 scientists per million.

Now, more than ever, the country needs to enhance its science and technology education to produce more scientists and engineers, and it needs to start at the secondary level. Latest data shows that there are more than 50 science high schools all over the country. We need to add more to this number.

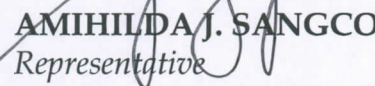
In the Province of Basilan, we are in the process of enhancing and improving our education system. The people need more education opportunities, specifically in the field of science and technology. Basilan is only one of the few provinces with no science high schools. With a population of 459,367 - 62% of which are attending school - it is now time to establish a science high school within its jurisdiction and allow its residents to be a significant force of change in nation-building. We believe a secondary education focused primarily on science and technology can greatly benefit the people, their families, their province and, ultimately, their country.

This bill aims to establish a Basilan Science High School to be situated in Isabela City. The creation of the Basilan Science High School would greatly improve the science and technology education of the people of Basilan and allow them to enjoy all the benefits of a science high school without traveling to nearby provinces to get their education.

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



MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Deputy Speaker
Representative
Lone District of Basilan



AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN
Representative
Anak Mindanao Party-List



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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF
ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BASILAN
SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of Education, a science high school in Isabela City, Province of Basilan, to be known as the Basilan Science High School.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Basilan Science High School, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved