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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6184

BY REPRESENTATIVES RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), ROMULO, PIAMONTE, ADIONG, ROQUE, SAHALI, OAMINAL, AMATONG (I.), ESCUDERO, MAGSAYSAY, CORTUNA, CRUZ-GONZALES, BELMONTE (V.), LAGDAMEO (M.), UNGAB AND QUIMBO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 903

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Revised
 Mindanao State University System Charter".

3 SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall promote, foster,
4 nurture and protect the right of all citizens to quality education. Toward this
5 end, the State shall continually strengthen and improve the Mindanao State
6 University (MSU) as a system.

7 The MSU was established as a potent instrument to implement more 8 effectively the policy of the government in the education and integration and 9 development of the Filipino youth, including Muslims and other non-Muslim 10 Indigenous Peoples (IPs), into the national body politic towards achieving 11 peace, development and national unity. In addition to its original mandate as a comprehensive university system, the MSU, hereinafter referred to as the University, is hereby designated as a national peace university.

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4 As a national peace university, it shall be recognized as an institution of 5 higher education for peace and development whose aims are to promote the 6 principles of understanding, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, democracy 7 and justice, and to stimulate cooperation among the people in keeping with the 8 noble aspirations, as embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

9 As such, the University shall initiate, maintain and promote programs
10 and policies on peace education, conflict resolution, multiculturalism,
11 pluralism, and diversity.

SEC. 3. Objectives of the University. – As a national peace university, a public and secular comprehensive university system, and a community of scholars dedicated to the search for truth, knowledge and peace, the University shall perform its unique and distinctive leadership in higher education and national education development and shall continue affirmative actions for the benefit of IPs through the following strategic activities:

(a) Lead in setting standards and initiate innovations in teaching,
research and extension, as well as in establishing and maintaining centers of
excellence in peace studies, engineering, pure and applied sciences, social
sciences and philosophy, arts and humanities, education, business, information
and industrial technology, law, medical and allied sciences, and in other
disciplines;

(b) Serve as a graduate university providing advanced studies and
specialization for scholars, scientists, writers, artists and professionals,
especially those who serve on the faculties of state and private colleges and
universities;

(c) Serve as a research university in the various fields of its expertise
 and specialization by conducting basic and applied research and development,
 promoting research in the various colleges and universities;

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4 (d) Serve as the leading educational institution in achieving peace in 5 the country by being the center for resolution of domestic conflict and by 6 initiating and implementing policies and programs that promote peace 7 education and conflict resolution;

8 (c) Lead as a public service university by providing various forms of 9 community, public and volunteer services, and scholarly and technical 10 assistance to the government, the private sector and civil society while 11 maintaining its standards of excellence;

(f) Provide opportunities for training and learning in progressive
leadership, responsible citizenship, and the development of democratic values,
institutions and practices;

(g) Serve as a regional and global university in cooperation with
international and scientific unions, networks of universities and scholarly and
professional associations in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

18 democratic governance in the University (h) Provide based 19 representation, accountability, on collegiality, transparency. gender 20 mainstreaming and active participation of its constituents, and promote the 21 holding of fora for students, faculty, research, extension and professional staff and alumni to discuss nonacademic issues affecting the University; and 22

23 (i) Advance the professional and economic rights and welfare of its24 academic and nonacademic personnel.

SEC. 4. The Mindanao State University System. – As a system, the
University shall be composed of the following constituent campuses:
(a) MSU-Marawi; (b) MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City;
(c) MSU-General Santos City; (d) MSU-Tawi-Tawi; (e) MSU-Sulu;
(f) MSU-Maguindanao; (g) MSU-Misamis Oriental; (h) MSU-Zamboanga

Sibugay; (i) MSU-Lanao National College of Arts and Trades (MSU-LNCAT)
 in Marawi City; (j) MSU-Sultan Naga Dimaporo; and (k) MSU-Maigo School
 of Arts and Trades (MSU-MSAT) and those that may be recognized and
 established by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the
 University President.

6 The constituent campuses shall have substantial autonomy in the 7 management of their affairs as may be determined by the Board of Regents. 8 However, constituent campuses, having their own Charters and consequently 9 enjoying fiscal autonomy, shall retain their rights and privileges as provided 10 therein.

11 SEC. 5. Seat of Administration and Seal of the University. - The seat of administration of the University shall be in Marawi City. There shall be 12 one (1) common seal of the University, which shall be the figure of a Meranao 13 14 awang (boat) in full sail as the head of the seal, and a Maguindanao lamp with 15 three (3) rays emanating from its flame resting aton the Meranao awang (boat) with the number "1961" written on it. The University colors shall be "sotra" 16 17 or magenta and gold. In addition, all existing logos and seals of the different 18 campuses and colleges shall be retained and placed side by side with the 19 common seal of the University: Provided, That the Board of Regents may, in 20 the future, revise and adopt a new common seal after consulting all campuses.

SEC. 6. Academic Freedom. - The University has the right and
 responsibility to exercise academic freedom.

SEC. 7. Academic Excellence. - The University shall maintain and
 enhance its high academic standards in the performance of its functions of
 instruction, research and extension service.

26 SEC. 8. Social Responsibility. – The University is committed to serve 27 the Filipino nation and humanity. While it fulfills its obligation to pursue 28 universal principles and to serve as a leading institution in achieving peace in 29 the country, it shall relate its activities to the needs of the Filipino people in

general, the IPs and the disadvantaged and marginalized people in particular, I 2 and their aspirations for social progress and transformation, peace and national 3 unity.

SEC. 9. Democratic Access. - No student shall be denied admission 4 to the University by reason of age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religious 5 belief, political opinion or physical disability. The University shall take 6 affirmative steps to enhance the access of disadvantaged students to its 7 8 programs and services.

9 The University recognizes the separation of Church and State. It shall guarantee religious freedom and shall not discriminate on the basis of religion. 10

SEC. 10. Institutional Autonomy. - To provide greater flexibility, the 11 12 University shall be treated in the manner consistent with its institutional requirements as the national peace university by service-wide agencies in the 13 exercise of their respective jurisdictions. Taking into account national goals 14 15 and priorities, the University shall exclusively determine its teaching, research 16 and extension thrusts, plans, policies, programs and standards and, on the basis 17 of such determination, the University shall recommend its annual budget to the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Congress. 18

SEC. 11. The Board of Regents. - The University shall have the 19 general powers of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as 20 21 amended, otherwise known as "The Corporation Code of the Philippines". The 22 administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall 23 be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following: 24

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(a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), 26 as Chairperson;

(b) The President of the Mindanao State University, as Vice 27 28 Chairperson;

1 (c) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and 2 Culture, as member; 3 (d) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical 4 Education, as member; (e) The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management 5 6 (DBM), as member; 7 (f) The Director-General of the National Economic and Development 8 Authority, as member; 9 (g) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, as 10 member: 11 (h) The Chairperson of the Education, Culture and Sports Committee 12 of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Legislative 13 Assembly or the legislative body that shall replace the ARMM, as member: 14 (i) The National President of the University Alumni Association, as 15 member: 16 (i) The President of the University Faculty Federation, as member: 17 (k) The President of the Federation of Supreme Student Councils of 18 the University, as member; 19 (1) one (1) Regent from the rank and file represented by the duly 20 elected president of system-wide nonacademic personnel federation duly 21 accredited by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), as member; 22 (m) one (1) Regent representing the IPs of Mindanao, as member; 23 (n) one (1) Chancellor Regent representing all chancellors of the 24 University, as member; and (o) one (1) Regent who is a prominent national educator and who is not 25 26 presently employed in any of the University's campuses, as member. The Regent representing the IPs shall be chosen from a list of at least 27 three (3) nominees by a Board-designated search committee and elected by the 28 Board for a term of two (2) years: Provided, That the Regents holding 29

office as members of the Board at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall
 continue to serve until the expiration of their appointment.

3 The Regent representing the chancellors shall be elected by all
4 chancellors among themselves and shall have a term of two (2) years.

5 In case of vacancy among appointive positions in the Board, the 6 vacancy shall be filled by the Board following guidelines set by it and the 7 appointee shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of the term.

8 The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and the members of the Board shall 9 not receive any regular compensation as such but they shall be entitled to 10 actual allowances allowed by law, and reimbursement of necessary expenses 11 incurred during or in conjunction with their attendance in the regular meetings 12 or special sessions of the Board or in connection with their performance of 13 official business duly authorized by the Board through a resolution.

SEC. 12. Powers of the Board. – The administration of the University
and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested upon the Board, which shall
exercise the following specific powers and duties:

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(a) Exercise the general powers set out in the Corporation Code;

(b) Define the thrusts of the University and adopt broad policyguidelines to ensure their implementation;

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(c) Preserve the integrity of the University;

(d) Approve the creation, merger or abolition of academic programs
upon the recommendation of the University Council, through the President of
the University;

(e) Approve the graduation of students and grant of honors, as
recommended by the respective Constituent Campus Councils to the
University Council of the system, through the President of the University;

(f) Confer honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning,
statesmanship or eminence in literature, science, or art upon the
recommendation of a committee created by the President of the University;

- (g) Approve rules on student discipline upon the recommendation of
 the University Council, through the President of the University;
- 3 (h) Create, organize, reorganize, merge or abolish constituent
 4 campuses, colleges, institutes and other academic and administrative units of
 5 the University upon the recommendation of the President of the University;
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(i) Establish professorial chairs and award the same to appropriate recipients upon the recommendation of the President of the University;

- 8 (j) Provide fellowships, scholarships and grants and award the same to
 9 faculty, staff and students giving evidence of merit;
- (k) Elect the University President for a term of four (4) years, without
 prejudice to reappointment for one (1) final term, from a list of at least three
 (3) nominees by a search committee appointed by the Board. In the event of a
 vacancy, the Board shall, within six (6) months, elect a president;
- 14 (1) Appoint faculty members, officials and employees, fix and adjust 15 salaries and benefits of all employees subject to the provisions of the Revised 16 Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget 17 and compensation laws; determine their hours of service and minimum 18 academic load, and such other terms and conditions as it may deem proper; 19 grant leaves of absence, at its discretion, under such regulations as it may 20 promulgate; and remove any faculty member, official or employee for cause, 21 as provided by law after due investigation and proper hearing;
- (m) Extend the term of the President of the University beyond the age
 of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), whose performance has
 been unanimously rated by the Board as "Outstanding" based on its guidelines,
 qualifications and standards, after unanimous recommendation by a search
 committee;
- (n) Extend, with their consent, the tenure of faculty members beyond
 the compulsory retirement age, on recommendation of the concerned units and
 the endorsement of the President of the University, whenever their services are

needed: Provided, however, That no extension of tenure shall be made for a 1 2 faculty member beyond the age of seventy (70);

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(o) Fix tuition and other school fees and charges which, along with 3 government subsidies and other incomes generated by the University, shall 4 5 constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank. These funds and all interests accruing therefrom 6 shall be retained for the use of the University. 7

(p) Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided by law to 8 9 support the University in its objectives, as specified by law, and all other sums 10 in the manner it may determine, at its discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the University: 11

12 (a) Authorize the construction or repair of the University's buildings. 13 machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and 14 15 equipment for the University;

16 (r) If the University, for reasons beyond its control, is not able to 17 pursue any project or program for which funds have been appropriated or allocated, the same funds may be used by the University, subject to the 18 19 approval of the Board, for any reasonable purpose for which it deems necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives of the University: 20 21 Provided, That funds collected from students for a specific purpose shall not 22 be used for other expenditures;

23 (s) Receive in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal 24 properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same for the benefit of the University, subject to the instructions, if any, of the donors; 25

26 (t) Enter into transactions for the profitable development and 27 management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used to develop and strengthen the University; 28

1 (u) Authorize its faculty and staff, through the chancellors, to travel 2 abroad in order to study, read papers, attend conferences and disseminate 3 research, all provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding;

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(v) Delegate any of its powers to the President of the University or any 5 other official, as it may deem necessary;

6 (w) Prescribe rules and regulations for the governance of the 7 University:

8 (x) Recommend the creation of additional plantilla items to the DBM 9 in line with the functions of the University and in consultation with the CSC, 10 and consistent with the scientific career system; and

11 (y) Exercise such other powers, not contrary to law, as may be proper 12 and necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

13 SEC. 13. Meetings and Quorum. - The Board shall meet regularly 14 The University President, as Vice Chairperson, in once every quarter. 15 consultation with the Chairperson, shall schedule meetings of the Board. The 16 Chairperson may call a special meeting whenever necessary: Provided, That 17 members are notified in writing at least ten (10) working days prior to the 18 meeting: Provided, further, That the notice shall contain a brief description of 19 the agenda items to be discussed. A simple majority of all members of the 20 Board holding office at the time the meeting is called shall constitute a 21 quorum. In accordance with existing laws and jurisprudence, no designated 22 proxy by a Board member may be allowed to participate or cast a vote in the 23 deliberations of the Board,

24 SEC. 14. The University President. - The University President shall be 25 elected by the Board from a list of at least three (3) nominees by a 26 Board-constituted search committee and shall serve for a term of four (4) 27 years, without prejudice to one (1) reappointment for one (1) final term. The 28 University President shall be the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Academic 29 Officer, and the head of the University Faculty. The University President shall

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exercise the powers specifically provided for in this Act, those determined by
 the Board, those which usually pertain to the office of the president of a
 university, and those which are related to its functions.

4 SEC. 15. *Powers and Duties of the President.* – The administration of 5 the University shall be vested in the President of the University, who shall 6 exercise the following powers and functions:

7 (a) Carry out the general policies laid down by the Board, and shall
8 have the power to act within the lines of general policies;

9 (b) Exercise general supervision over the University, including
10 businesses and financial operations, all officers, members of the teaching staff,
11 and employees of the University System;

(c) Exercise general supervision over extracurricular activities of
students and authority to issue adequate rules for the organization and
operation of student organizations;

15 (d) Authorize the transfer of faculty and employees from one 16 department or unit of the University to another with the written consent of the 17 faculty member or employee concerned: *Provided*, That: (1) there is no 18 demotion in rank and salary; (2) it is with the consent of the head of the unit; 19 and (3) it is in the interest of the service;

(e) Serve as the official center of communication among the faculty,
employees and students of the University, on the one hand, and the Board, on
the other hand;

23 (f) Prepare an annual report to the Board on the work and24 accomplishments of the previous year and the needs for the current year;

(g) Present to the Board the annual budget of the University, with theestimates of income and expenditures;

(h) Execute and sign, on behalf of the University, all contracts, deeds
and other instruments necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the
University, unless otherwise provided therein;

1 2 (i) Have general responsibility over the enforcement of discipline and for the maintenance of satisfactory academic standards in all its units;

(j) Modify or disapprove any action or resolution of any college,
faculty or administrative body if, in his judgment, the larger interest of the
University so requires. Should the President exercise such power, the decision
shall be communicated in writing to the body immediately affected, stating the
reasons for the action, and thereafter shall accordingly inform the Board,
which may take any action it may deem appropriate in connection therewith;
and

(k) Exercise such other powers as elsewhere provided in this Act, or as
authorized by the Board: *Provided*, That the President may delegate in writing
any of the abovestated functions to the chancellors, campus directors or to any
officer in the University.

14 SEC. 16. The Secretary of the University and of the Board. – There 15 shall be a Secretary of the University, who shall also serve as the Secretary of 16 the Board, to be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the 17 University President. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all official 18 records of the University.

SEC. 17. The University Council and Constituent Campus Councils. There shall be a University Council of the University consisting of the
University President as its Chairperson, the chancellors, and representatives of
the various Constituent Campus Councils.

The Constituent Campus Council, composed of the chancellor as Chairperson, the Vice Chancellors, deans, and all faculty members with the academic rank of assistant professor or higher, shall meet, evaluate and recommend the campus agenda to the University Council.

SEC. 18. The University Council. - The University Council shall be
the highest academic body of the University and shall exercise the following
powers:

(a) Prescribe the academic programs, including their institution, 1 2 revision, abolition or merger, subject to the approval of the Board upon the recommendation of the University President; 3

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(b) Recommend to the Board, through the University President, the 4 graduation of students and grant of honors; 5

(c) Determine the requirements for admission to any college or unit. 6 7 graduation, and the grant of honors, subject to the minimum system-wide 8 requirements;

(d) Undertake a periodic review of academic courses, programs, 9 10 standards, thrusts and policies; and

(e) Adopt internal rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of 11 12 this Act.

SEC. 19. The Chancellor of a Constituent Campus. -The 13 administration of each constituent campus is vested in the chancellor insofar as 14 authorized by the Board and the University President. The chancellor shall be 15 elected by the Board, upon nomination of the University President, from a list 16 17 of at least three (3) nominees by a search committee appointed by the 18 University President in accordance with guidelines as may be determined by the Board. The chancellor shall perform duties and functions mandated by this 19 20 Act, under the supervision of the University President. The chancellor shall 21 serve for a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed to one (1) final term.

22 SEC. 20. The Faculty. - The teaching staff of each college shall 23 constitute its faculty who shall be appointed by the University President, on 24 nomination by the chancellor, and subject to the confirmation of the Board.

If a dean fails to complete the term, the chancellor shall appoint an 25 acting dean while a search process is in progress. In no case shall the search 26 and election of the next dean be longer than ninety (90) calendar days from the 2728 date when the vacancy occurs.

SEC. 21. Requisites of Appointment of Faculty and Staff. - No 1 religious or political opinion and affiliation shall be made a matter of inquiry 2 3 in the appointment of faculty and staff.

4 SEC. 22. Student Councils. - There shall be established a College 5 Student Council in every college or degree-granting unit, a University Student 6 Council for every constituent campus, and a Federation of Supreme Student 7 Councils of the University.

8 The student councils shall serve as the primary student bodies that shall 9 advance the interests, welfare, and aspirations of the students. It shall have the 10 power to adopt internal rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of 11 this Act.

12 Student publications are encouraged in every college, unit, or 13 constituent campus to be funded from student fees, subject to supervision by 14 designated faculty advisers. Freedom of expression and autonomy in all 15 matters of editorial and fiscal policy shall be guaranteed, especially in the selection of editors and staff: Provided, That there shall be strict adherence to 16 17 the canons of responsible journalism.

18 SEC. 23. Tax Exemptions. - (a) All grants, bequests, endowments, 19 donations and contributions made to the University to be used actually, 20 directly and exclusively by the University shall be exempt from donor's tax 21 and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross 22 income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the 23 donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue 24 Code of 1997, as amended.

25 (b) The importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, 26 philosophical, historical and cultural books and/or publications shall be 27 exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff 28 and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended,

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SEC. 24. Land Grants and Other Real Properties of the University. –
 The State shall provide subsidy for the University in the form of a hump sum
 amount, through general appropriations and other financial benefits, and in
 kind, through land grants, donations and use of other real properties. All
 incomes derived from the land grants and other real properties shall be used by
 the University, as may be decided by the Board.

Such parcels of land ceded by law, decrees or presidential issuances to
the University are hereby declared reserved for the purposes intended. The
absolute ownership of the University System over these landholdings,
including those covered by original and transfer certificates of title in the name
of the University, is hereby confirmed.

12 The Board may confirm contracts, mechanisms, and financial 13 instruments, such as joint ventures, long-term leases, securitization and the 14 like, entered into by the University President: *Provided*, That such 15 mechanisms and arrangements shall sustain and protect the environment in 16 accordance with law, and be exclusive of the academic core zone of the 17 campuses of the University.

18 The Board may allow the use of the income derived from real properties
19 of the University as security for financial transactions to generate additional
20 revenues when needed for education purposes.

The Board may approve the implementation of joint venture agreements: *Provided*, That, in the event that real properties of the University are involved, only incomes from the use of the real properties shall be pledged in the joint ventures: *Provided*, *further*, That no joint venture shall result in the alienation of the real properties of the University.

Any plan to generate revenues and other sources from land grants and other real properties entrusted to the University shall be consistent with the academic mission and orientation of the University: *Provided*, That such programs, projects or mechanisms shall be approved by the Board: *Provided*, *further*, That funds generated from such programs, projects or mechanisms
 shall not be construed to replace, in part or in whole, the annual government
 appropriations to the University.

SEC. 25. Auditing of Accounts. - The Commission on Audit shall audit
all accounts and disbursements of the University.

6 SEC. 26. Fiscal Autonomy of the Constituent Campuses. – No portion 7 of the funds appropriated or allocated for a constituent campus shall be 8 disbursed by the administration of the University System, and all other 9 incomes and earnings of the constituent campuses shall remain with the 10 concerned constituent campuses.

SEC. 27. Rules of Construction. - No statutory or other issuances 11 shall diminish the powers, rights, privileges, and benefits accorded to the 12 13 University under this Act or enjoyed at present by the University under other issuances not otherwise modified or repealed by this Act, unless subsequent 14 15 legislation expressly provides for their repeal, amendment or modification. In 16 case of doubt in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Charter, the 17 same shall be resolved in favor of the academic freedom and fiscal autonomy 18 of the University.

SEC. 28. Appropriations. – The amount needed to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's lump sum appropriations and other internal funds of the University. Thereafter, such lump sum representing the national government's assistance for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The University may use the unexpended balances in any appropriationfor purposes that the Board shall determine.

SEC. 29. Transitory Provision. - The University shall, in addition to
its laboratory high schools, continue to operate its feeder community high
schools located in conflict-affected areas pursuant to its original mandate.

1 SEC. 30. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) 2 days after the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the 3 CHED, shall formulate the rules and regulations to fully implement the 4 provisions of this Act.

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5 SEC. 31. Repealing Clause. - Republic Act No. 1387 (MSU Charter), 6 as amended by Republic Act No. 1893 and Republic Act No. 3868; Republic 7 Act No. 1567 (Lanao National College of Arts and Trades); Republic Act 8 No. 4279 (Maigo School of Arts and Trades); Republic Act No. 5507 (Lanao 9 Norte Agricultural College); Republic Act No. 6060 (An Act to Establish the 10 Sulu College of Technology and Oceanography as Unit of the MSU); and all 11 laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof 12 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified 13 accordingly.

SEC. 32. Separability Clause. - Should any provision herein be
 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other
 provisions of this Act.

SEC. 33. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation. Approved,