



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9115

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BY REPRESENTATIVES TEJADA, JAVIER, ANDAYA, HOFER, CASTRO (F.H.), ROA-PUNO, ORTEGA (V.N.), PALMA, NOEL, SALO, GONZALES (A.P.), PIMENTEL, SAVELLANO, GARIN (R.), GARCIA (J.E.), FORTUN, BRAVO (A.), BERTIZ, CAMPOS, SALON, BELARO, GULLAS, VIOLAGO, ZUBIRI, ALEJANO, GONZALES (A.D.), CHIPECO, BORDADO, GO (M.), MANGAOANG, CARI, TREÑAS, FERNANDO, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, TUPAS, BATAOIL, CUARESMA, ROMUALDO, SILVERIO, DALIPE, CALDERON, MARCOLETA AND VERGARA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1273

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE USM-KABACAN, COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT 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
- 2 “University of Southern Mindanao (USM)-Kabacan, Cotabato
- 3 TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act”.

1           SEC. 2. *Establishment.* – There is hereby established a  
2   Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)  
3   Training and Assessment Center in the USM, in the Municipality of  
4   Kabacan, Province of Cotabato, under the supervision of the  
5   TESDA, to be known as the USM-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA  
6   Training and Assessment Center.

7           SEC. 3. *General Mandate.* – The USM-Kabacan, Cotabato  
8   TESDA Training and Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as  
9   the Center, shall primarily provide technical-vocational training  
10   and skills development programs to students and residents from  
11   low-income families and out-of-school youths, including indigenous  
12   people and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Municipality of  
13   Kabacan and the adjacent localities of the Province of Cotabato  
14   within the access radius of the USM, geared towards the acquisition  
15   of practical livelihood, employable skills, gainful employment and  
16   entrepreneurship.

17           The Center shall help train local residents in the host locality  
18   of Kabacan and its adjacent sixteen (16) municipalities and the  
19   capital city of Kidapawan within the operational and access radius  
20   of the Center to become productive, self-reliant and globally  
21   competitive middle to high-level skilled labor force to hasten the  
22   social and economic development of these areas and the Province of  
23   Cotabato, in particular, and to meet the manpower needs of both  
24   local and international labor markets, in general.

25           The Center shall consider in the design of relevant technical-  
26   vocational training programs to be offered thereat a competency  
27   assessment of the socioeconomic profile, employment conditions and  
28   opportunities, business climate, market and industry potentials,

1 available resources, presence of support structures, including the  
2 literacy level and skills readiness, and the overall development  
3 within the host area and adjacent communities within the  
4 operational radius of the Center established herein. The Center  
5 shall also consider the relevant skills trade competencies,  
6 craftsmanship training programs, and entrepreneurship activities  
7 needed to deliver the effective employment and development  
8 interventions required to make these areas as human resource and  
9 productivity hubs.

10 The Center shall also serve as a TESDA-accredited  
11 assessment center for acquired competencies in technical-vocational  
12 skills in the host locality of Kabacan, the adjacent sixteen (16)  
13 municipalities, and the capital city of Kidapawan, Province of  
14 Cotabato, within the operational and access radius of the Center.

15 Preference in admission shall be given to the most  
16 disadvantaged citizens, including PWDs, and to the most  
17 economically depressed areas of Kabacan and adjacent localities  
18 of the Province of Cotabato within the operational radius of  
19 the Center.

20 The Center shall, in coordination with the Department of  
21 Education (DepEd) and the TESDA, offer relevant teachers' training  
22 assistance and curriculum design to the secondary schools providing  
23 the technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the K to 12  
24 Program of the DepEd in Kabacan, the adjacent sixteen (16)  
25 municipalities, and the capital city of Kidapawan, Province of  
26 Cotabato.

27 *SEC. 4. Training Programs.* – The Center shall offer diverse  
28 short-term certificate courses and modular trainings in relevant

1 technical-vocational skills and trades specialization to comply with  
2 employment standards in preferred and emerging market-driven  
3 labor opportunities, and shall likewise give premium efforts to skills  
4 specialization and new trends for local market employment  
5 requirements geared towards achieving the development of a robust  
6 inclusive economy within the host area and each of the adjacent  
7 localities and communities within the operational radius of the  
8 Center, in consultation with the Department of Labor and  
9 Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),  
10 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of the  
11 Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and  
12 Development Authority (NEDA), business-industry partners, and  
13 other relevant agencies, both local and international.

14 The Center may establish research and technology hubs,  
15 technology development farms, mobile training programs, and  
16 satellite or extension training centers in priority areas throughout  
17 Kabacan and the Province of Cotabato to strengthen the linkages  
18 among the industry, the academe, and the Center.

19 To address the development and manpower needs of the host  
20 locality of Kabacan, its adjacent sixteen (16) municipalities, and the  
21 capital city of Kidapawan, Province of Cotabato, the Center shall  
22 offer the following TESDA-registered technical-vocational training  
23 programs with competencies assessment leading to National  
24 Certification Levels I-III:

25 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trade  
26 such as metal and steelworks, machine fabrication and operation,  
27 heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanic, refrigeration and

1 air conditioning, electronics, and operation of power tools and  
2 equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;

3 (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related training and skills  
4 development in such areas as farming-fishing operations  
5 technology, backyard farming and home-based aquaculture and  
6 propagation innovation, mechanized farm and fishing tools and  
7 equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and  
8 innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolk's continuing  
9 training for increased productivity and entrepreneurship;

10 (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills  
11 employment and small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical  
12 skills education in crafts and arts, workmanship and designing,  
13 high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture,  
14 livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home  
15 technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology,  
16 health and wellness training;

17 (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management  
18 and marketing, practical accountancy, bookkeeping and office  
19 procedures, business processes and application procedures including  
20 registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and  
21 intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment  
22 opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, including online  
23 home-based business operation and use of social media business  
24 marketing;

25 (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trade skills such as  
26 carpentry, masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and  
27 installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing, personal  
28 computer (PC) servicing, and other relevant practical skills courses;



1 (f) Computer literacy and information technology (IT)-related  
2 skills, digital technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online  
3 photography, computer design, and advertising;

4 (g) Social communication skills development, language  
5 proficiency courses in English and other languages for business  
6 process outsourcing (call center) employment and overseas job  
7 placement;

8 (h) Seminars in personality development, career counseling  
9 and job placement, and work ethic and values; and

10 (i) Other preferred priority skills and trade training that may  
11 be relevant to the needs of the people of the Province of Cotabato to  
12 enhance their capacities for increased productivity, practical  
13 livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurship skills.

14 SEC. 5. *Compliance with TESDA Requirements.* – The  
15 provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the Center herein  
16 established in the USM shall become operationally effective only  
17 upon the determination and declaration of the TESDA, through the  
18 issuance of a formal recommendation and certificate of compliance,  
19 that the Center has satisfactorily complied with the minimum  
20 requirements for quality standards prescribed by the TESDA  
21 governing the following competency assessment: (a) standard  
22 procedures and guidelines (SPGs) for the establishment and  
23 operation of a TESDA-accredited training and assessment center;  
24 (b) operational sustainability of the Center established herein, in  
25 terms of licensed faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment,  
26 training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and other  
27 standard requirements as TESDA-accredited training and  
28 assessment center; (c) sustainable funding source and allocation of

1 separate budget requirement for the operation of the Center herein  
2 established; (d) assurance that the training programs offered are  
3 fully aligned with the minimum standards of competency-based  
4 quality technical-vocational skills technology and the needs of the  
5 host area and adjacent communities served in the context of the  
6 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Philippine  
7 Qualifications Framework (PQF) for technical-vocational education;  
8 and (e) compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and  
9 standards in establishing a TESDA-accredited training and  
10 assessment center within a university, as may be necessary and  
11 applicable.

12 The TESDA and the USM shall execute a Memorandum of  
13 Agreement (MOA) authorizing the establishment and operation of  
14 the Center inside the USM Campus: *Provided, That*, the USM  
15 Board of Regents passes a resolution approving the Center:  
16 *Provided, further, That*, both the TESDA and the USM are in full  
17 accord with their respective obligations pursuant to the purposes of  
18 the Center under this Act.

19 SEC. 6. *Administration.* – The Center shall be headed by a  
20 Technical-Vocational Administrator, under the supervision of the  
21 TESDA, who shall render full-time service and be responsible for  
22 the administration and operation of the Center.

23 The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall be appointed  
24 by the TESDA Director General in accordance with Civil  
25 Service Commission rules and regulations and the qualification  
26 requirements for such office.

27 The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall enter into  
28 mutual agreements with locally-based private and public

1 counterpart agencies or instrumentalities and persons, subject to  
2 approval by the TESDA Director General, for such assistance as  
3 may be necessary to effectively implement this Act.

4       SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The Director General of the  
5 TESDA shall include in the Authority's program the operation  
6 of the Center under this Act, the funding of which shall be  
7 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8       The USM and the local government units (LGUs) concerned,  
9 in consultation with the TESDA, shall likewise set aside from any  
10 available revenue an amount deemed appropriate as annual  
11 counterpart fund to support the operation of the Center established  
12 herein.

13       SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within  
14 ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the TESDA, in  
15 coordination with the DOLE, Department of Agriculture, DTI,  
16 DOST, NEDA, Department of Budget and Management (DBM),  
17 DILG, concerned LGUs, USM, and such other relevant agencies and  
18 industry-business partners shall prepare and issue the necessary  
19 rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

20       SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section  
21 or provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid,  
22 the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and  
23 shall remain in force and effect.

24       SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders,  
25 decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or  
26 inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or  
27 amended accordingly.



1           SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
2 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of  
3 general circulation.

Approved,

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