

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8658

BY REPRESENTATIVES PANOTES, GO (M.) AND YAP (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 743

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MERCEDES, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE MERCEDES, CAMARINES NORTE 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 “*Mercedes, Camarines*
2 *Norte TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act*”.

3 **SEC. 2. Establishment.** – There is hereby established a training and assessment
4 center, under the supervision of the TESDA, to be known as the Mercedes, Camarines Norte
5 TESDA Training and Assessment Center. It shall be located in a highly accessible area in the
6 Municipality of Mercedes, Province of Camarines Norte, pursuant to the purposes of this Act
7 and to the agreement between the TESDA and the concerned local government units (LGUs).

8 **SEC. 3. General Mandate.** – The Mercedes, Camarines Norte TESDA Training and
9 Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall primarily provide technical-
10 vocational education and training (TVET) programs to students and local residents from low-
11 income families and out-of-school youths, including persons with disabilities and indigenous
12 peoples, in the Municipality of Mercedes and the neighboring localities in the Province of
13 Camarines Norte, to help them become productive, self-reliant and globally competitive labor
14 assets.

15 The Center shall provide effective employment interventions through training
16 programs on relevant skills in trade competencies, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship
17 activities to help hasten the development of the host area and the adjacent localities in the
18 Province of Camarines Norte into human resource and productivity hubs.

19 The Center shall serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired
20 competencies in TVET programs in the Municipality of Mercedes and adjacent localities in
21 the Province of Camarines Norte. It shall also provide technical-vocational training for

1 teachers and curriculum design assistance to the secondary schools offering the technical-
2 vocational livelihood track under the K to 12 Program, in coordination with the Department
3 of Education and the TESDA.

4 **SEC. 4. *Training Programs.*** – The Center shall offer short-term certificate courses
5 and modular trainings in preferred technical-vocational skills and trades specialization. To
6 this end, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and
7 Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture
8 (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and
9 Development Authority (NEDA), business-industry partners, and other relevant agencies and
10 instrumentalities, both local and international, shall provide the necessary assistance to enable
11 the Center to develop skilled manpower to achieve a robust and inclusive economy in the
12 host area and its adjacent localities in the Province of Camarines Norte.

13 The Center may establish research and technology hubs, technology development
14 farms, satellite or extension training centers, promote mobile training programs, and
15 strengthen linkages among the industry partners, the academe, and the Center geared towards
16 the acquisition by residents of practical livelihood, employable skills, gainful employment,
17 and entrepreneurial capabilities in priority areas in the Municipality of Mercedes and adjacent
18 localities in the Province of Camarines Norte.

19 The Center shall offer the following TVET programs with competencies assessment
20 leading to National Certification Levels I-III:

- 21 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and
22 steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation,
23 automotive mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and
24 operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and
25 industrial purposes;
- 26 (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such areas
27 as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and
28 home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm, fishing
29 tools and equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and
30 innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolk's trainings for increased
31 productivity and entrepreneurship;
- 32 (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-
33 scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts,
34 workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring,
35 horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home
36 technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and
37 wellness training;

- 1 (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management and marketing, practical
2 accountancy, bookkeeping and office procedures, business processes and
3 application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business
4 patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment
5 opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-based business
6 operation and social media business marketing;
- 7 (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry,
8 plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing,
9 electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and such other relevant
10 practical skills courses;
- 11 (f) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, digital technology,
12 web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design and
13 advertising;
- 14 (g) Social communication skills and language proficiency courses in English and
15 other languages for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job
16 placement;
- 17 (h) Seminars in personality development, career counseling, job placement, and work
18 ethic and values; and
- 19 (i) Other preferred skills and trades training that may be needed by the people of the
20 Municipality of Mercedes and of the other localities of the Province of Camarines
21 Norte to enhance their capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment, and
22 entrepreneurial activities.

23 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act
24 notwithstanding, the Center shall become operational only upon the determination and
25 certification by the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and certificate
26 of compliance, that the Center has satisfactorily complied with the minimum standards of
27 quality prescribed by TESDA governing the following: (a) standard procedures and
28 guidelines for the establishment and operation of a Center; (b) operational sustainability of
29 the Center, in terms of licensed faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment, training and
30 laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and other standard requirements of a Center; (c)
31 sustainable funding source and allocation of the budgetary requirement; (d) full alignment of
32 the training programs offered with the minimum standards of competency-based quality
33 technical-vocational skills technology and the needs of the host area and adjacent
34 communities served within the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
35 (ASEAN) integration and the Philippine Qualification Framework for TVET; and e)
36 compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and standards as may be necessary and
37 applicable in establishing a Center.

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

4 The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall be appointed by the TESDA Director
5 General in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the
6 qualification requirements for such office.

7 The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall enter into agreements with locally-
8 based private and public counterpart agencies, instrumentalities or persons, and seek such
9 assistance as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act, subject to the approval of
10 the TESDA Director General.

11 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The Director General of the TESDA shall include in the
12 Authority’s program the operation of the Center, the funding of which shall be included in the
13 annual General Appropriations Act.

14 The LGUs concerned, in consultation with the TESDA, shall set aside from any
15 available local revenue an amount deemed appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support
16 the operation of the Center herein established.

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

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

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

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

Approved,