



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9337

BY REPRESENTATIVES RODRIGUEZ, GO (M.) AND YAP (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 957

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE CAGAYAN DE ORO (BUGO) SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES (COBSAT) IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, INTO A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)-SUPERVISED AND ADMINISTERED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAGAYAN DE ORO POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (COPI), 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 “*Cagayan de Oro Polytechnic*
2 *Institute (COPI) Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Conversion.** – The Cagayan de Oro (Bugo) School of Arts and Trades (COBSAT)
5 located in City of Cagayan de Oro, Province of Misamis Oriental, is hereby converted into the
6 Cagayan de Oro Polytechnic Institute (COPI), and placed under the supervision and administration
7 of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).
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9 **SEC. 3. General Mandate.** – The COPI shall restructure its technical-vocational education
10 and training (TVET) programs to effect a major curricular shift in response to the demand of the
11 local and international labor market for technical skills, and align them with the standards of the
12 industry.
13

14 To this end, the COPI shall upgrade its curricular standards as a tertiary TESDA-polytechnic
15 skills educational institution and provide higher level competency qualifications for instructors in
16 TESDA-registered TVET programs and certificate courses. It shall provide a wide array of relevant
17 skills trainings and trade specialization courses to facilitate the acquisition by the citizenry of the
18 necessary technical skills that shall enhance their access to gainful employment, practical livelihood,
19 and entrepreneurial opportunities, and thus hasten the development of the host area and the adjacent
20 localities in the Province of Misamis Oriental into human resource and productivity hubs.
21

22 Priority admission to the COPI, including availment of scholarships, grants-in-aid and student
23 financial assistance, shall be given to the most economically disadvantaged students, out-of-school
24 youths, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples in the City Cagayan de Oro and the
25 adjacent localities to ensure their development into productive, self-reliant and globally competitive
26 skilled labor assets.

1
2 The COPI shall serve as a TESDA-accredited assessment center for acquired competencies in
3 TVET programs in the Province of Misamis Oriental. It shall also provide teachers' training and
4 curriculum design assistance to the secondary schools offering the technical-vocational livelihood
5 track under the K to 12 Program in coordination with the Department of Education the TESDA, and
6 the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).
7

8 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offerings/Training Programs.** –The COPI shall offer TESDA-registered
9 TVET program, undergraduate certificate courses, and short-term courses and modular trainings in
10 preferred technical-vocational skills. It shall aim to meet the competency requirements under Level
11 V of the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), which is the Diploma Level in TVET.
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13 To this end, the DOLE, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and
14 Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local
15 Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), business-industry
16 partners, and other relevant agencies and instrumentalities, both local and international, shall provide
17 the necessary assistance so the COPI can produce skilled manpower to supply the needs of a robust
18 and inclusive economy.
19

20 The COPI may establish research and technology hubs, technology development farms,
21 satellite or extension training centers, promote mobile training programs, and strengthen linkages
22 with industry partners and the academe.
23

24 It shall also adopt the use of innovative training modes such as information technology-
25 assisted instruction, dual learning system, open or distance education, community laboratory, virtual
26 and blended learning modes, and such other instructional programs that shall allow local residents
27 greater access to TVET program offerings of the COPI.
28

29 Course completion at the COPI shall be credited through skills competency assessment under
30 National Certification Levels III to V. When applicable, TVET competency shall qualify for
31 academic degree recognition under the ladderized interface system for tertiary education, provided
32 that the requirements of the Commission on Higher Education are complied with.
33

34 The COPI shall offer skills development for higher competency qualifications in areas
35 relating to technical industrial education, trade technology, tourism, agricultural technology, business
36 literacy, and innovation in TESDA-registered skills courses as follows:
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- 38 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steelwork, machine
39 fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanical assembly,
40 refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of power tools and equipment
41 for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;
42
- 43 (b) Tourism and hospitality-related courses relating to hotel, restaurant and tourism development
44 management;
45
- 46 (c) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such areas as farming
47 technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based aquaculture
48 and propagation innovations, mechanized farming, fishing tools and equipment operation,
49 agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant training seminars for
50 farmers and fisherfolk to encourage entrepreneurship and thus increase their productivity;
51

- 1 (d) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale
2 entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts, workmanship and
3 design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture, livestock raising and
4 breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial
5 cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;
- 6 (e) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, practical accountancy,
7 bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and application procedures including
8 registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation,
9 business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online
10 home-based business operation, and social media business marketing;
- 11
12 (f) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing,
13 welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing,
14 personal computer servicing, and such other relevant practical skills courses;
- 15
16 (g) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, basic computer operation, web
17 development, digital animation, game development, and computer-aided design application;
- 18
19 (h) Social communication skills and language proficiency courses in English and other languages
20 for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job placement;
- 21
22 (i) Seminars on personality development, career counseling, job placement, and work ethic and
23 values; and
- 24
25 (j) Other preferred skills and trades training that may be needed by the people of Cagayan de
26 Oro City and the adjacent localities to enhance their capacities for practical livelihood,
27 gainful employment, and entrepreneurial activities.
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29 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act
30 notwithstanding, the conversion of the COBSAT into the COPI shall become operational only upon
31 the issuance by the TESDA of a formal recommendation and certificate of compliance attesting that
32 the COPI has satisfactorily complied with the minimum standards of quality it has prescribed
33 governing the following : a) standard procedures and guidelines for the conversion and operation of
34 a TESDA polytechnic institute; b) operational sustainability of the COPI in terms of licensed faculty-
35 trainers and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and other
36 standard requirements of a TESDA-accredited and supervised school; c) sustainable funding source
37 and regular allocation of budgetary requirement for TESDA-operated schools; d) full alignment of
38 the training programs offered with the minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-
39 vocational technology skills and the needs of the host area and adjacent localities served within the
40 context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) integration and the PQF for TVET;
41 and e) compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and standards, as may be necessary and
42 applicable, on the conversion of the COBSAT.

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44 **SEC. 6. Administration.** – The COPI shall be headed by a School Superintendent under the
45 supervision of the TESDA, who shall render full-time service and be responsible for its
46 administration and operation. The School Superintendent shall be appointed by the TESDA Director
47 General in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the
48 qualification requirements for such office.

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1 The School Superintendent shall enter into agreement with locally-based private and public
2 counterpart agencies or instrumentalities and persons, and seek such assistance as may be necessary
3 to effectively implement this Act, subject to the approval of the TESDA Director General.
4

5 The academic and administrative staff of the COPI shall be organized following the staffing
6 pattern of TESDA for such type of schools, pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations, and the
7 position classification and compensation of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) .
8

9 Pursuant to existing laws and promulgations, the COPI shall likewise establish its governing
10 board thereafter.
11

12 **SEC. 7. Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.**—All assets, fixed and movable, personnel, records
13 and documents, as well as the liabilities or obligations of the COBSAT, shall be transferred to the
14 COPI: *Provided*, That the positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty and personnel therein
15 employed prior to its conversion into the COPI, shall not be impaired, pursuant to existing laws.
16

17 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the defunct COBSAT are
18 henceforth declared property of the COPI and shall be titled under that name: *Provided*, That, should
19 the COPI cease to exist or such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the COPI, the
20 same shall revert to the concerned local government unit (LGU), or to the City of Cagayan de Oro,
21 Province of Misamis Oriental.
22

23 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial funding of the operations of
24 COPI shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of COBSAT. Thereafter, the
25 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
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27 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the approval
28 of this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DOST, DA, the DBM, DILG,
29 NEDA, the concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the
30 host locality, prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation
31 of this Act.

32 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall
33 be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected
34 and shall remain in force and in effect.
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36 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and
37 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are repealed or amended
38 accordingly.
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40 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
41 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
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Approved,