




23 JAN 24 P1:15

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S.B. No. 1748

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES VISAYAS TACLOBAN
COLLEGE INTO AN AUTONOMOUS CONSTITUENT UNIVERSITY OF THE
PHILIPPINES SYSTEM TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
PHILIPPINES TACLOBAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that *"the State shall give priority to education."* The Constitution further declares that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College (UPVTC) is presently a regional unit of the University of Philippines Visayas, which is one of the constituent universities of the University of the Philippines System. It was established on May 23, 1973, during the 823rd meeting of the UP Board of Regents then headed by UP President Salvador P. Lopez, upon the request of the Provincial Government of Leyte led by Governor Benjamin T. Romualdez.

UPVTC was established as an answer to the urgent need for quality education in Eastern Visayas, with particular emphasis on science, humanities, and agriculture. Through the years, the UPVTC community in Tacloban has contributed significantly to the social and economic development of the region.

The institutional growth of UPVTC, however, has been limited owing to a relationship of dependency with its current mother unit, UP Visayas. It operates at a distance from the mother unit, and with a limited budget. It continues to face significant challenges in terms of the infrastructure and other resources needed to deliver its mandate. Nevertheless, these limitations, UPVTC is able to perform well and clearly has

the potential to perform even better. For UPVTC to better serves the autonomy is urgently required.

The grant of autonomy, and the conversion of UPTVC into a constituent university within the UP system to be known as UP Tacloban, will strengthen the school's capability to create and apply new knowledge through teaching, research, extension and to develop minds that will not only invent new products and technologies but innovate and improve existing ones.


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


IMEE R. MARCOS



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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "University of the Philippines
- 2 *Tacloban Act of 2023*".
- 3
- 4 **SEC. 2.** The University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College is hereby
- 5 converted into an autonomous constituent university within the University of the
- 6 Philippines system, to be known as the University of the Philippines Tacloban, hereafter
- 7 referred to as UP Tacloban.
- 8
- 9 **SEC. 3.** The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines shall have the
- 10 full authority to determine the instruction, research, extension programs, schedule of
- 11 preparatory work and initial operations, qualifications and number of academic and
- 12 other personnel, enrollment and other matters related to the administrations and
- 13 operation of UP Tacloban.
- 14
- 15 **SEC. 4.** The University of the Philippines Tacloban shall offer graduate and
- 16 undergraduate courses with the areas of specialization and according to its capabilities,
- 17 as the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines may deem necessary to
- 18 carry out its objectives, particularly to realize its mandate and meet the needs of the
- 19 region. UP Tacloban is also mandated to undertake research and extension services and
- 20 provide progressive leadership in these areas.
- 21

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2 **SEC. 5.** The University of the Philippines Tacloban shall network and coordinate
3 with other state universities and colleges (SUCs) in such areas that shall contribute to
4 the development of Eastern Visayas.

5
6 **SEC. 6.** The Board of Regents of the University of Philippines shall submit a report
7 to the President of the Philippines, Congress, and the Commission on Higher Education
8 (CHED) on the actions that the University has taken pursuant hereto within six (6)
9 months from the effectivity of this Act.

10
11 **SEC. 7.** The amount of three hundred million pesos (Php 300,000,000.00) is
12 hereby appropriated from the current year's unappropriated balance to finance the
13 initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, a supplemental appropriation of one
14 hundred million pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) shall be set aside annually and included in
15 the General Appropriations Act for four (4) years or until the provisions of this Act are
16 fully implemented.

17
18 Furthermore, this supplemental budget appropriated by this Act is separate from
19 and in addition to the appropriations and internal operating budget that will be
20 earmarked for UP Tacloban as a constituent unit of the University of the Philippines
21 System, as provided in the Annual Appropriations Act.

22
23 **SEC. 8.** The provisions of Republic Act No. 9500, otherwise known as the
24 "University of the Philippines Charter of 2009" shall form an integral of this Act.

25
26 **SEC. 9.** If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid,
27 other parts hereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and
28 effect.

29
30 **SEC. 10.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts
31 thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended,
32 repealed, or modified accordingly.

33
34 **SEC. 11.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following completion of its
35 publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general
36 circulation.

37
 Approved,