

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



23 MAR -1 P3:14

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1948

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND  
ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAPA,  
SIARGAO ISLAND, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, TO BE  
KNOWN AS THE SIARGAO, SURIGAO DEL NORTE TESDA  
TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Article XIV, Section 1 provides 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.*"

In 2019, Siargao was voted the best island in the world by Conde Nast Traveler— with a population of roughly 200,000 people and a remote, untouched feel, Siargao has been luring visitors from far and wide with its pristine, white beaches, excellent surfing conditions, and peaceful, tropical atmosphere. The influx of tourists in the island and the development, demands the creation of a training center to equip its residents with the necessary skills in entrepreneurship and other forms of trade, commerce and industry.

Hence, this bill aims to establish a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training and Assessment Center in the Municipality of Dapa, Siargao Island, Province of Surigao del Norte. This measure seeks to improve the quality of life of the people in the Province as well as to provide sustainable livelihood for the community's underprivileged sector.

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

**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAPA,**  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Siargao, Surigao del*  
2 *Norte TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act*”.

3           **SEC. 2. Establishment.** – There is hereby established a Technical Education  
4 and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training and Assessment Center in the  
5 Municipality of Dapa, Siargao Island, Province of Surigao del Norte, under the  
6 supervision of the TESDA, to be known as the Siargao, Surigao del Norte TESDA  
7 Training and Assessment Center. It shall be established in a highly accessible location  
8 in the Municipality of Dapa, Siargao Island, Province of Surigao del Norte, pursuant to  
9 the purposes of this Act and to the mutual agreement of the TESDA and the concerned  
10 local government units (LGUs).

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

18           The Center shall provide effective employment interventions through training  
19 programs on relevant skills trade competencies, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship  
20 activities needed to deliver the effective employment interventions that will help

1 hasten the development of the host area and adjacent localities in the Province of  
2 Surigao del Norte into human resource and productivity hubs.

3 The Center shall serve as TESDA-accredited Assessment Center for acquired  
4 competencies in TVET programs in Siargao Island, and adjacent localities in the  
5 Province of Surigao del Norte. It shall also provide teachers' training and curriculum  
6 design assistance to the secondary schools offering the technical-vocational livelihood  
7 track under the K to 12 Program, in coordination with the Department of Education  
8 and the TESDA.

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

19 The Center may establish research and technology hubs, technology  
20 development farms, satellite or extension training centers, and promote mobile  
21 training programs to strengthen linkages among the industry partners, the academe,  
22 and the Center geared towards the acquisition of practical livelihood, employable skills,  
23 gainful employment, and entrepreneurship in priority areas in Siargao Island, and  
24 adjacent localities in the Province of Surigao del Norte.

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

27 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and  
28 steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive  
29 mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of power tools  
30 and equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;

31 (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such  
32 areas as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and  
33 home-based aquaculture and the propagation innovations, mechanized farm, fishing  
34 tools and equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and  
35 innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolk's trainings for increased productivity  
36 and entrepreneurship;

37 (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and  
38 small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts,  
39 workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture,  
40 livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary  
41 arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;

42 (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing,  
43 practical accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and  
44 application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business

1 patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment  
2 opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-based business  
3 operation, and use of social media business marketing;

4 (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry,  
5 masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive  
6 servicing, electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and such other relevant  
7 practical skills courses;

8 (f) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, digital  
9 technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design,  
10 and advertising;

11 (g) Social communication skills and language proficiency courses in English and  
12 other languages for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job  
13 placement;

14 (h) Seminars on personality development, career counseling, job placement,  
15 and work ethic and values; and

16 (i) Other preferred skills and trades training that may be needed by the people  
17 of Siargao Island, and of the other localities in the Province of Surigao del Norte to  
18 enhance their capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment, and  
19 entrepreneurial activities.

20 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act  
21 notwithstanding, the Center shall become operational only upon the determination  
22 and certification by the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and  
23 certificate of compliance, that the Center has satisfactorily complied with the minimum  
24 quality standards prescribed by the TESDA governing the following:

25 (a) Standard procedures and guidelines for the establishment and operation of  
26 a Center;

27 (b) Operational sustainability of the Center, in terms of licensed faculty-trainers  
28 and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials,  
29 and other standard requirements of a Center;

30 (c) Sustainable funding source and allocation of the budgetary requirement;

31 (d) Assurance that the training programs offered are fully aligned with the  
32 minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-vocational skills  
33 technology and the needs of the host area and adjacent communities served within  
34 the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Integration and the  
35 Philippine Qualifications Framework for TVET; and

36 (e) Compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and standards, as may  
37 be necessary and applicable in establishing a Center.

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

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

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

8           **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The TESDA Director General shall include in the  
9 Authority's program the operation of the Center, the funding of which shall be included  
10 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

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

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

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

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

*Approved,*