



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6575

BY REPRESENTATIVES DAZA, GO (M.), CO-PILAR, ADIONG, BASCUG, MANUEL, RODRIGUEZ (E.), SUANSING (M.A.), MAGSINO, ACIDRE, GULLAS, KHONGHUN, EUDELA, GALEOS, AQUINO, HERNANDEZ, TUTOR, ABALOS, ALVAREZ (M.), QUIMBO, DUJALI, CARI, BUHAIN, SACDALAN, NAVA, ZAMORA (M.C.), PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, ORTEGA, SALO, CAOAGDAN, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, VERZOSA, GASATAYA, PADIERNOS, MERCADO-REVILLA AND CO (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 225

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE BALICUATRO COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEN, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, INTO A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION TO BE ADMINISTERED AND SUPERVISED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN SAMAR POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, 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 “Northern Samar Polytechnic
2 Institute (NSPI) Act.”

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Conversion.*** – The Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades (BCAT) located in the
5 Municipality of Allen, Province of Northern Samar, is hereby converted into a polytechnic institute,
6 to be known as the “Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute”, under the supervision and administration
7 of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It shall be established in a
8 highly accessible location in the Municipality of Allen, Province of Northern Samar, pursuant to the
9 purposes of this Act, and to the mutual agreement of the TESDA and the concerned local government
10 unit (LGU).

11
12 **SEC. 3. *General Mandate.*** – In line with the adoption of the Philippine Qualifications
13 Framework (PQF) and the Senior High School Program of the Department of Education (DepEd), the
14 NSPI shall endeavor to restructure its technical-vocational education and training (TVET) curricular
15 programs to make them responsive to the rapidly changing demands of industry and the domestic and
16 international labor markets, within the context of the mutual recognition arrangements embodied in
17 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic integration framework and other
18 relevant international agreements for TVET.

1 To this end, the NSPI shall continually upgrade its curricular standards as a postsecondary
2 polytechnic institution.
3

4 The NSPI shall offer a wide array of TESDA-registered TVET programs and certificate
5 courses that aim to meet the competency requirements under Level V of the PQF, which is the
6 Diploma Level in TVET. The undergraduate technical-vocational education it provides is geared on
7 employable skills, practical livelihood and entrepreneurship.
8

9 The NSPI shall play a lead role in helping students and out-of-school youths and residents from
10 low-income families and persons with disabilities in the Municipality of Allen and adjacent
11 municipalities in the Province of Northern Samar become productive and self-reliant, and to become
12 part of a globally competitive middle to high-level skilled labor force.
13

14 In the design of relevant TVET training programs and course offerings the NSPI shall conduct
15 a competency assessment of the socioeconomic profile, employment conditions and opportunities,
16 business climate, market and industry potentials, resources available and presence of support
17 structures, including the literacy level and skills readiness, and the overall development needs of the
18 host area, Allen, and adjacent communities within its operational radius. It shall likewise consider the
19 relevant skills and trade competencies, craftsmanship training programs, and entrepreneurship
20 activities that are needed to make Allen and all localities comprising the Province of Northern Samar
21 human resource and economic productivity hubs.
22

23 The NSPI shall also serve as a TESDA-accredited Assessment Center, subject to the
24 accreditation requirements of the Philippine TVET Competency Assessment and Certification System,
25 for acquired competencies in technical-vocational skills in the entire Province of Northern Samar.
26

27 Priority admission to the NSPI, including scholarships, grants-in-aid, and other forms of
28 student financial assistance, however, shall be given to the most disadvantaged citizens of the
29 Municipality of Allen and to the most economically depressed areas in the province.
30

31 Further, as deemed necessary and practicable, in coordination with the DepEd and the TESDA,
32 the NSPI shall render relevant teachers' training assistance and curriculum design the technical-
33 vocational livelihood track under the DepEd and TESDA in the communities and areas within the
34 operational radius of the NSPI.
35

36 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offerings and Training Programs.** – The NSPI shall offer one (1)-year to
37 three (3)-year diploma courses and undergraduate certificate, including short-term courses and
38 modular trainings in diverse relevant technical-vocational and industrial technology education to
39 comply with employment standards in preferred market-driven labor opportunities, and shall promote
40 skills specialization to support the development needs of the Municipality of Allen and the other
41 municipalities in the Province of Northern Samar, in coordination with the Department of Labor and
42 Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of the Interior and
43 Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority, business-industry
44 partners, and such other relevant agencies.
45

46 The NSPI may establish research and technology hubs, mobile training programs, and satellite
47 or extension training centers in priority areas throughout the Province of Northern Samar to strengthen
48 linkages among industry, the academe, and the technology programs of the NSPI and to provide
49 greater access to TVET and other skills training programs. It shall likewise adopt the use of innovative
50 training modes such as information technology-assisted instruction, dual learning system, open
51 distance learning, community laboratory, and such other instructional programs.

1 The NSPI shall offer TESDA-registered TVET courses and short-term training programs.
2 Course completion in these programs shall be credited through skills competency assessment under
3 National Certification Levels I to V, as applicable, and shall further qualify students to academic
4 recognition under the Ladderized Interface System for tertiary education, provided that they are
5 compliant with the requirements of the said program.
6

7 The NSPI shall offer skills development options for higher competency qualifications in
8 technical-industrial education, trade technology, tourism, agricultural technology, business literacy,
9 and innovation in TESDA-registered skills courses as follows:
10

- 11 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steelwork, machine
12 fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanical assembly,
13 refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of power tools and equipment for
14 both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;
15
- 16 (b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such areas as farming
17 technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based aquaculture and
18 propagation innovations, mechanized farm tools and equipment operation, agribusiness and
19 agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolks' trainings for
20 increased productivity and entrepreneurship;
21
- 22 (c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale
23 entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts, workmanship and
24 design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture, livestock raising and
25 breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial
26 cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;
27
- 28 (d) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, practical accountancy,
29 bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and application procedures, including
30 registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation,
31 business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, online
32 home-based business operation, and use of social media business marketing;
33
- 34 (e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing,
35 welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing,
36 personal computer servicing, and such other relevant practical skills courses;
37
- 38 (f) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, digital technology, web design,
39 animation, photoshop or online photography, computer design, and advertising;
40
- 41 (g) Social communication skills development and courses in English proficiency and other
42 languages;
43
- 44 (h) Seminars on personality development, career counseling, and job application strategies, and
45 work ethics and values; and
46
- 47 (i) Other preferred priority skills that may be needed by the economy of Allen and are relevant to
48 the needs of the other service areas in the Province of Northern Samar.
49

50 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act notwithstanding,
51 the conversion of the BCAT into the NSPI shall become operationally effective only upon the
52 determination and declaration of the TESDA through the issuance of a formal recommendation and

1 Certificate of Compliance that the NSPI has satisfactorily complied with the minimum requirements
2 for standards of quality prescribed by the TESDA governing the following: (a) Standard procedures
3 and guidelines for the establishment, or conversion and operation of a polytechnic institute; (b)
4 Operational sustainability of the NSPI in terms of licensed faculty or trainers and personnel,
5 equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and other standard requirements
6 as an institute; (c) Sustainable funding source and allocation of budget requirement of the NSPI; (d)
7 Full alignment of the training programs offered with the minimum standards of competency-based
8 quality technical-vocational skills technology and needs of the host municipality, Allen, and adjacent
9 areas served within the context of the PQF and ASEAN framework for technical-vocational education;
10 and (e) Compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities as may be necessary and applicable in its
11 conversion into the NSPI.

12
13 **SEC. 6. Administration.** – The NSPI shall be headed by a School Superintendent under the
14 supervision of the TESDA and appointed by the TESDA Director General in accordance with the rules
15 and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the qualification requirements and standards for
16 such office.

17
18 The School Superintendent shall render full-time service and be responsible for the administration
19 and operation of the NSPI.

20
21 The academic and administrative staff of the NSPI shall be organized according to the staffing
22 pattern prescribed by the TESDA for such type of schools pursuant to existing laws, rules and
23 regulations.

24
25 **SEC. 7. Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.** – All assets, fixed and movable, personnel, records
26 and documents of the BCAT, as well as liabilities or obligations, shall be transferred to the NSPI:
27 *Provided*, That the positions, rights, and security of tenure enjoyed by faculty and personnel therein
28 employed prior to its conversion into the NSPI, and pursuant to existing law, shall not be impaired.

29
30 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the BCAT are hereby declared
31 property of the NSPI and shall be titled under that name: *Provided*, That should the NSPI cease to
32 exist or such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the NSPI, the same shall revert to
33 the Municipality of Allen, Province of Northern Samar or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the
34 case may be.

35
36 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The amount needed to initially implement the provisions of this Act
37 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the BCAT. Thereafter, such amount as
38 may be necessary for the continued operation of the NSPI shall be included in the annual General
39 Appropriations Act.

40
41 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of
42 this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, Department of Budget and
43 Management, DILG, the concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies and industry-business
44 partners of the host locality, prepare and issue the rules and regulations for the effective
45 implementation of this Act.

46
47 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be
48 deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected
49 and shall remain in force and in effect.

50
51 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and
52 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are repealed or amended

1 accordingly.

2 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
3 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,