EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill which seeks to establish the University of Southern Mindanao (USM)-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center was originally introduced as House Bill 9115 by the undersigned Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada in the Seventeenth (17th) Congress. It was passed by the House of Representatives and thereafter transmitted to the Senate where it failed to pass due to lack of material time.

Education is fundamental to the realization of inclusive growth, as it begets knowledge and culture, education finds its practical articulation and demonstration in the world of work. Thus, knowledge, as it is inextricably embedded with people replete with ideas and bursting with entrepreneurial spirits, is valued as the key strategic resource to achieving growth objectives. Commitment to education acknowledges the different pathways toward acquiring knowledge, of which technical and vocational education and training, as a path when taken in conjunction with other education and training pathways, is recognized to be one primary knowledge building block.

The establishment of an accessible TESDA training and assessment center within the University of Southern Mindanao campus will not only focus in the development of mainstream Filipino middle-level manpower but as well as open the path to further develop and enhance the abilities of our local farmers and encourage the younger generation to consider farming as an alternative and promising trade. Taking cognizance of the fact that regions vary in their economic and human resource potentials, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM)-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center will serve as the pioneer skills training institution to offer short term courses in market-driven and relevant technical vocational courses and agriculture related technical-vocational training and skills development programs.

University of Southern Mindanao (USM)-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center will serve the noble purpose of providing students with basic practical knowledge and technical expertise in their desired area of competency thus enabling them to become productive and self-reliant partners in the achievement of social and economic development.

Hence the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA
3rd District, Province of Cotabato
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3118

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE USM-KABACAN, COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "University of Southern Mindanao (USM)-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center Act."

SECTION 2. Establishment. - There is hereby established a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training and Assessment Center in the USM, in the Municipality of Kabacan, Province of Cotabato, under the supervision of the TESDA, to be known as the USM-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center.

SECTION 3. General Mandate. – The USM-Kabacan, Cotabato TESDA Training and Assessment Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall primarily provide technical-vocational training and skills development programs to students and residents from low-income families and out-of-school youths, including indigenous people and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Municipality of Kabacan and the adjacent localities of the Province of Cotabato within the access radius of the USM, geared towards the acquisition of practical livelihood, employable skills, gainful employment and entrepreneurship.

The Center shall help train local residents in the host locality of Kabacan and its adjacent sixteen (16) municipalities and the capital city of Kidapawan within the operational access radius of the Center to become productive, self-reliant and globally competitive middle to high-level skilled labor force to hasten the social and economic development of these areas and the Province of Cotabato, in particular, and to meet the manpower needs both local and international labor markets, in general.

The Center shall consider in the design of relevant technical-vocational training programs to be offered thereat a competency assessment of the socioeconomic profile, employment conditions and opportunities, business climate, market and industry potentials, available resources, presence of support structures, including the literacy level and skills readiness, and the overall development within the operational radius of the center established herein. The Center shall also consider the relevant skills trade competencies, craftsmanship training programs, and entrepreneurship activities
needed to deliver the effective employment and development interventions required to make these areas as human resource and productivity hubs.

The Center Shall also serve as a TESDA-accredited assessment center for acquired competencies in technical-vocational skills in the host locality of Kabacan, the adjacent sixteen (16) municipalities and the capital city of Kidapawan, Province of Cotabato, within the operational access radius of the Center.

Preference in admission shall be given to the most disadvantaged citizens, including PWD's, and to the most economically depressed areas of Kabacan and adjacent localities of the Province of Cotabato within the operational radius of the Center.

The Center shall, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the TESDA, offer relevant teachers' training assistance and curriculum design to the secondary schools providing the technical-vocational livelihood (TVL) track under the K to 12 Program of the DepEd in Kabacan and its adjacent sixteen (16) municipalities and the capital city of Kidapawan, Province of Cotabato.

SECTION 4. Training Programs. – The Center shall offer diverse short-term certificate courses and modular trainings in relevant technical-vocational skills and trades specialization to comply with employment standards in preferred and emerging market-driven labor opportunities, and shall likewise give premium efforts to skills specialization and new trends for local market employment requirement geared towards achieving the development of a robust inclusive economy within the host area and each of the adjacent localities and communities within the operational radius of the Center, in consultation with the department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), business-industry partners, and other relevant agencies, both local and international.

The Center may establish research and technology hubs, technology development farms, mobile training programs, and satellite or extension training centers in priority areas throughout Kabacan and the Province of Cotabato to strengthen the linkages among the industry, the academe, and the Center.

To address the development and manpower needs of the host locality of Kabacan, its adjacent sixteen (16) municipalities, and the capital city of Kidapawan, Province of Cotabato, the Center shall offer the following TESDA-registered technical-vocational training programs with competencies assessment leading to National Certification Levels I-III:

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

(b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related training and skills development in such areas as farm-fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovation, mechanized farm and fishing tools and equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolk's continuing training for increased productivity and entrepreneurship;

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

(d) Basic business literacy training in financial management and marketing, practical accountancy, bookkeeping and office procedures, business processes and application procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import export accreditation, including online-home-based business operation and use of social media business marketing;

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

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

(g) Social communication skills development, language proficiency courses in English and other languages for business process outsourcing (call center) employment and overseas job placement;

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

(i) Other preferred priority skills and trade training that may be relevant to the needs of the people of the Province of Cotabato to enhance their capacities for increased productivity, practical livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurship skills.

SECTION 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements. – The provision of this Act notwithstanding, the Center herein established in the USM shall become operationally effective only upon the determination and declaration of the TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and certificate of compliance, that the Center has satisfactorily complied with the minimum requirements for quality standards prescribed by the TESDA governing the following competency assessment: (a) standard procedures and guidelines (SPGs) for the establishment and operation of a TESDA-accredited training and assessment center; (b) operational sustainability of the Center established herein, in terms of licensed faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and other standard requirements as TESDA-accredited training and assessment center; (C) sustainable funding source and allocation of separate budget requirement for the operation of the Center herein established; (d) assurance that the training programs offered are fully aligned with the minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-vocational skills technology and the needs of the host area and adjacent communities served in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Philippine Qualifications Framework (POF) for technical-vocational education; and (e) compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and standards in establishing a TESDA-accredited training and assessment center within a university, as may be necessary and applicable.

The TESDA and USM shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) authorizing the establishment and operation of the Center inside the USM Campus; Provided, That, the USM Board of Regents passes a resolution approving the Center; Provided, further, That, both the TESDA and the USM are in full accord with their respective obligations pursuant to the purposes of the Center under this Act.
SECTION 6. Administration. - The Center shall be headed by a Technical-Vocational Administrator, under the supervision of the TESDA, who shall render full-time service and be responsible for the administration and operation of the Center.

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

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

SECTION 7. Appropriations. – The Director General of TESDA shall include in the Authority’s program the implementation of this Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current years appropriation of TESDA. Thereafter the amount necessary for the continued operation of the Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, TESDA, in coordination with DOLE, Department of Agriculture, DTI, DOST, NEDA, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), DILG, USM, concerned LGUs and such other relevant agencies shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect immediately after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,