

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1312, March 13, 1978]

CONVERTING THE MINDANAO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO.

WHEREAS, the constitution of the Philippines directs the State to establish and maintain a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the goals of national development, and further prescribes that all educational institutions shall aim, among other things, to develop scientific, technological and vocational efficiency;

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 6-A, promulgated in September 29, 1972, it has been declared a policy of the Government to orient the educational system towards an accelerated national economic growth;

WHEREAS, the southern part of Mindanao needs a state diversity to help in accelerating the socio-economic development of the region;

WHEREAS, the Mindanao Institute of Technology, established under Republic Act Numbered Seven Hundred Sixty Three as amended by Republic Act Numbered Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty Seven, situated in the Municipality of Kabacan, Province of North Cotabato, has achieved a high degree of development that it is now capable of rendering greater service to the people of Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the Institute is strategically located, being situated at the intersection of the highways connecting the cities of Cotabato, Davao and Cagayan de Oro and, therefore, very accessible to students from the different Parts of Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the conversion of the Mindanao Institute of Technology into a University which broadens its curricular offerings, would permit the enrollment of more students in affherent higher education courses, thus hastening the integration of Christians, Muslims, and other cultural communities in Southern Mindanao;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested the Constitution, and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081 dated September 21, 1972, as amended, do hereby order and decree to be part of the laws of the land the following:

SECTION 1. The present Mindanao Institute of Technology, located in the Municipality of Kabacan, Province of North Cotabato, is hereby converted into the University of Southern Mindanao (USM).

SECTION 2. The University shall have the following major functions:

- a. Provide programs of instruction and professional training primarily in the fields of science and technology, specially in agriculture and industrial fields;
- b. Promote advance studies, research and extension services and progressive leadership in all fields of agriculture, including agribusiness, foods and nutrition, fishery, forestry, animal and veterinary sciences, engineering, industrial education, and other courses needed in the socio-economic development of Mindanao;

- c. Develop courses at the graduate level along its fields of specialization to respond to the needs of development workers in the academic community in the region;
- d. Provide non-formal education and undertake vigorous extension and research programs in food production, nutrition, health and sports development; and
- e. Offer scholarships and/or part-time job opportunities to deserving students from low-income families.

SECTION 3. The University of Southern Mindanao shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in the Corporation Law, and the administration of such University and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and in the President of the University insofar as authorized by said Board.

SECTION 4. The head of the University shall be known as the President of the University of Southern Mindanao. He shall be appointed by the Board of Regents for a term of six years with, a contingent appointment of University Professor in his discipline and a compensation to be fixed by the said Boards. The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those specifically provided for in this decree shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of the University.

SECTION 5. The governing body of the University shall be the Board of Regents of the University of Southern Mindanao.

- a. The Board of Regents shall take appropriate steps to ensure that the establishment of the University of Southern Mindanao shall aim at the speedy realization of the goals above indicated;
- b. To facilitate this objective, there shall be a Board of Regents of eight members composed of:

1. Secretary,
Department of
Education
and Culture - Chairman
2. University President - Vice-Chairman
3. Director for Regional
Planning,
National Economic &
Development
Authority (NEDA) - Member
4. President of the USM
Alumni
Association - Member
5. One prominent
Muslim of the
Region to be
appointed by the
President of the
Philippines
upon

recommendation of the

Secretary of
Education and

Culture - Member

6. Secretary,
Department of

Agriculture - Member

7. Chairman, National
Science

Development Board - Member

8. A representative of
the USM Student

Body - Member

- c. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation in any form whatsoever, whether as salary, honorarium, allowances or other emoluments; *Provided, however,* that actual and necessary expenses incurred either in attendance upon meeting of the Board or upon other official business duly authorized by the Board may be reimbursed by the Members.

SECTION 6. In addition to its general powers of administration, the Board of Regents shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. To appoint, upon the recommendation of the President, the following:

1. The Secretary of the University, and other officers of administration therein;
2. The deans, directors, or heads of colleges, schools, institutes and other principal units of the University, academic or non-academic, which are not supervised by or attached to such units;
3. Faculty members with the rank of associate professor or higher, professional lecturers, visiting or exchange faculty; and other officers and employees whose starting salaries are at least equal to that of associate professor, insofar as the following personnel actions are involved: original appointments; re-appointments/renewal/transfer with change in rank or salaries; and promotion or salary increases.

- b. To plan and provide for the establishment of schools, colleges, and departments for the professional degrees in agriculture, engineering, home economic, education, industrial education, forestry, fishery, animal and veterinary medicine sciences, architecture and other such schools, colleges, and departments as deemed necessary; and advanced or graduate degrees along the foregoing fields.

- c. To authorize and appropriate revolving funds for the operation and management of all university income-producing projects and to promulgate rules and regulations for the operation and management of the same and for the accounting and auditing of their funds, income and expenses, any provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding.

- d. To admit to the University, public institutions of learning in Southern Mindanao which may desire to affiliate as schools or colleges or branches of