

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 470, May 24, 1974]

CONVERTING THE VISAYAS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE INTO THE VISAYAS STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, EXPANDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ITS CURRICULAR PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY.

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 to develop scientific, technological and vocational efficiency;

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 6-A promulgated on September 29, 1972, it has been declared a policy to reorient the educational system toward an accelerated national economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the conversion of the Visayas Agricultural College into a State Agricultural College, broadening for this purpose its curricular programs, would serve to achieve the above national goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order and decree to be part of the laws of the land the following:

SECTION 1. The present Visayas Agricultural College located in the Municipality of Baybay, Leyte, is hereby converted into the VISAYAS STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, hereinafter referred in this Decree as the College.

SEC. 2. The College shall primarily provide higher vocational, professional, and technical instruction and training in agricultural and industrial fields with special emphasis given to the coconut industry. It shall also promote research, advance studies, and progressive leadership in the fields of agriculture including agricultural education and home technology, with special emphasis given to coconut industry, fishery, forestry and industrial education.

SEC. 3. In addition to its present secondary agricultural course and undergraduate courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Homemaking and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, the College shall offer undergraduate courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering, and Bachelor of Science in Forestry; post graduate courses leading to the degrees of Master of Science in Agriculture and Master of Science in Agricultural Education; courses in fresh-water fish culture and such other degree courses and special courses as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary.

SEC. 4. No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of sex, ethnic consideration, or religious belief or affiliation.

SEC. 5. The head of the college shall be known as the President of the Visayas State College of Agriculture. He shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

The power and duties of the president of the college in addition to those specifically provided for in this Decree, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the

president of a college.

SEC. 6. The governing body of the college shall be the Board of Trustees of the Visayas State College of Agriculture. It shall be composed of the Secretary of Education and Culture who shall be the chairman, the Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture in Los Baños, the President of the College, and four prominent residents of Leyte who are distinguished leaders in agricultural education or in agricultural activities.

Such residents shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines. Of the first group appointed, the President shall designate one to serve for one year; one to serve for two years; one to serve for three years; and one to serve for four years. Thereafter persons appointed to succeed such members shall hold office for a term of four years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. In case of a permanent vacancy, the position shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines. Such appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term only.

When the Secretary of Education and Culture is unable to perform his duties as Chairman of the Board due to illness, absence or other cause, or in case of vacancy in the office, the Undersecretary of Education and Culture shall temporarily perform the functions of the Chairman of the said Board. When both the Secretary and the Undersecretary of Education and Culture are unable to exercise the powers of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the members of the Board shall elect for among themselves a temporary chairman who shall act as Chairman thereof.

SEC. 7. The members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation but they shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred either in attendance upon meetings of the Board or upon other official business authorized by resolution thereof.

SEC. 8. In addition to its general powers of administration, the Board of Trustees shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. To receive and appropriate for the purposes specified by law such sums as may be provided for the support of the college.
- b. To confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation of the College. It may also confer the usual honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning, statesmanship or eminence in science, agriculture, forestry, industry or public service related to such fields;
- c. Subject to Civil Service Law, rules and regulations, to appoint, upon recommendation of the President of the College, the Deans of the different schools of the College, the Registrar, the heads of departments, professors, instructors, lecturers and other employees of the College; to fix, in accordance with WAPCO rates, their compensation; to prescribe hours of service, duties and the conditions of works as it may deem proper; to grant to them in its discretion, leave of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, and to remove them for cause upon investigation and hearing- pursuant to Civil Service Law governing disciplinary action;
- d. To approve the curricula and rules of discipline drawn up by the College Council as hereinafter provided;