

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10599, June 04, 2013]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE PALOMPON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALOMPON, PROVINCE OF LEYTE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE PALOMPON POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE MARCELINO R. VELOSO NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TABANGO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Conversion.* - The Palompon Institute of Technology (PIT) in the Municipality of Palompon, Province of Leyte is hereby converted into a state university to be known as the Palompon Polytechnic State University, hereinafter referred to as the University, and integrating therewith the Marcelino R. Veloso National Polytechnic College (MRVNPC) in the Municipality of Tabango, Province of Leyte. The main campus of the University shall be in Palompon, Leyte.

SEC. 2. *General Mandate.* - The University shall primarily provide advanced education, higher technological, professional instruction and training in maritime education, shipping, administration, science and technology, environmental education, sports management and operations, engineering and other related fields. It shall also undertake research, extension and production services in support of the development of the Province of Leyte and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

SEC. 3. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* - The University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 4. *Curricular Offerings.* - The University shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of maritime education, shipping administration, arts and sciences, philosophy, teacher education, agriculture and forestry, engineering and architecture, industrial and technological education, information and communications technology, hotel and restaurant management, trades, nontraditional courses and other degrees within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, in order to meet the needs of the Province of Leyte and Region VIII.

The University may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school, if it has a College of Education.

SEC. 5. *Administration.* - The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as

"The Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

SEC. 6. *The Governing Board.* - The governing body of the University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CRED), Chairperson;
- (b) The President of the University, Vice Chairperson;
- (c) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate, member;
- (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives, member;
- (e) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), member;
- (f) The Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), member;
- (g) The President of the federation of faculty associations of the University, member;
- (h) The President of the federation of student councils of the University, member;
- (i) The President of the federation of alumni associations of the University, member; and
- (j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their profession or the fields of specialization of the University, members.

The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from among a list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Leyte, as recommended by the search committee constituted by the University President, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and the other members of the Board, based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position.

The term of office of the President of the United Filipino Seafarers, the President of the federation of faculty associations, the President of the federation of student councils and the President of the federation of alumni associations shall be coterminous with their respective terms of office, as set forth in their respective constitutions and bylaws.

The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

SEC. 7. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.* - The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties, in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under existing laws:

(a) To promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies and the provisions of the Philippine as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994";

(b) To promulgate rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(c) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the University in the manner it may determine in its discretion, in order to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(d) To import economic, technical and cultural books and/or publications;

(e) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University, and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any;

(f) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges such as, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the involved sectors.

Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University.

Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension or other programs/projects or the University: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which these are collected.

If, for reasons beyond its control, the University shall not be able to pursue any project for which the funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University;

(g) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and school fees for greater access to poor but deserving students;

(h) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

(i) To appoint upon recommendation of the President of the University, vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of campuses, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the University;

(j) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position

Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process law;

(k) To approve the curricula, instructional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the Administrative and the Academic Councils herein provided;

(l) To set policies on admission and graduation of students;

(m) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, agriculture or in any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University; and to authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of no degree and nontraditional courses;

(n) To establish and absorb nonchartered tertiary institutions within the Province of Leyte as branches and centers in coordination with the CRED, and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and to offer therein programs or courses, to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities as mandated by the Constitution;

(o) To establish research and extension centers of the University where such will promote the development of the latter;

(p) To establish professorial chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;

(q) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinsbove to the President and/or other officials of the University as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;

(r) To authorize an external management audit of the University, to be financed by the CRED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA); and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

(s) To collaborate with other governing boards of the state colleges and universities within the Province of Leyte or Region VIII, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and work towards the restructuring of the University to become more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;

(t) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the University;

(u) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the University;

(v) To develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local and foreign, and to

appoint experts/specialists as consultants, part-time or visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

(w) To setup the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual learning system, open or distance education and community laboratory for the promotion of greater access to education;

(x) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and transparency within the University;

(y) To privatize, where most advantageous to the University, the management of nonacademic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance and such other similar activities; and

(z) To extend the term of the President of the University beyond the age of retirement but not beyond the age of seventy (70), whose performance has been unanimously rated by the Board as outstanding based on the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, after unanimous recommendation by the search committee.

SEC. 8. *Meetings of the Board.* - The Board shall regularly convene once every three (3) months. Whenever necessary, the Chairperson of the Board may call, upon three (3) days' prior written notice, a maximum of two (2) special meetings within the same period.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however,* That the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the University is among those present in the meeting. If the Chairperson of the CHED is unable to attend, a Commissioner may be designated as representative to the meeting with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided, however,* That during this meeting, the President of the University as Vice Chairperson shall be the Presiding Officer: *Provided, further,* That this *proviso* notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chair of the Board, in which case said CHED Commissioner shall act as the Presiding Officer.

In case the Chairpersons of the Congressional Committees on Education shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may duly designate their respective representatives to attend the said meeting, who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

The members of the Board shall not receive any salary but shall be entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either in their attendance to meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 9. *The University President.* - The University shall be headed by a President, who shall render full-time service and who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. The University President shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term: *Provided,* That in order to effect a smooth transition to a state university, the incumbent President of the Palompon Institute of Technology if