

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7879, February 14, 1995 ]**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE DAVAO REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANABO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO, INTO A STATE COLLEGE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO DEL NORTE STATE COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Davao Regional Institute of Fisheries Technology in the Municipality of Panabo, Province of Davao, is hereby converted into a state college, to be known as the Davao del Norte State College, hereinafter referred to as the College.

SEC. 2. The College shall primarily -provide higher professional, technical, and special instructions for special purposes and promote research and extension services, advanced studies and progressive leadership in education, engineering, arts, sciences, fisheries, and other fields as may be relevant.

SEC. 3. The College shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of education, engineering, arts and sciences, agro-fisheries, other allied fisheries technology courses, and degree courses as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives. It shall also offer opportunity in short-term technical or vocational courses within its area of specialization to meet the needs of the nation.

SEC. 4. The existing secondary and technical-vocational education schools shall be transferred to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Commission on Higher Education: *Provided*, that this high school shall be allowed to remain and operate within the campus of the College until it shall have been transferred to another location, or until its students shall have been accommodated in other high schools, public or private: *Provided, further*, that the College may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school for the education courses and the existing technical-vocational school with its facilities and equipment shall serve and be used as the laboratory for any relevant courses specified in Section 2 and Section 3 of this Act.

SEC. 5. The College shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in the Corporation Law. The administration of the College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees and the president of the College insofar as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 6. The governing body of the College shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- a. The chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, chairman;

- b. The president of the College, vice-chairman;
- c. The chairman of the Committee on Education of the Senate or a member of said committee having the power to vote as his representative, member;
- d. The chairman of the Committee on Education of the House of Representatives or a member of said committee having the power to vote as his representative, member;
- e. The representative of the National Economic and Development Authority, member;

The president of the supreme student council of the College, member.

In addition, the Board may appoint the following, as members, when deemed necessary:

The president of the alumni association of the College; and Two (2) prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization in the College and who are to be chosen from among those qualified in the Province of Davao.

The president of the alumni association, as well as the two (2) prominent citizens so appointed by the Board, shall have the same powers, authority and privileges as the regular members of the Board.

The chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, the president of the College, the chairpersons of the education committees of the Senate and the House, and the representative of the National Economic and Development Authority shall serve in an *ex officio* capacity. The president of the supreme student council and, when deemed necessary, the president of the alumni association shall serve for one (1) year, and for the two (2) appointed prominent citizens, one shall serve for four (4) years, and the other for two (2) years.

For the purpose of this section, the alumni association and the student councils in each campus of the College shall organize their respective federations.

SEC. 7. The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports.

SEC. 8. 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 enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- b. To receive and use all sums as may be provided for the support of the College in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- c. To import duty-free essential commodities, materials and equipment for educational or technological programs as an exception to existing laws, provided such commodities, materials and equipment are not available locally;
- d. To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the

- benefit of the College and subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any. Such donations shall be exempt from taxes and shall be considered as deductible items from the income tax of the donor;
- e. 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;

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

The income generated by the College may at their discretion be disbursed for the professional growth and development, health, welfare, and other similar benefits of the faculty members and personnel, for extension and student welfare expenses so that the flexibility on use of income shall be focused on faculty, personnel improvement and student welfare activities, and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under this Act.

- f. To authorize the construction and repair of its buildings, machineries, equipment and other facilities and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment. Purchases and other transactions entered into by the College, through the Board, shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
- g. To confirm appointments of vice-presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the College made by the president of the College;
- h. 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;
- i. To approve the curricula, institutional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein provided;
- j. To confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation, to award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts, sciences and technology or in any field of specialization, and to authorize the award of certificates for completion of non-degree and nontraditional courses;
- k. To establish branches within the Province of Davao if and when it becomes essential and necessary where there is no existing school offering similar programs or courses to promote and carry out legal access to education opportunities as mandated by the Constitution; and
- l. To establish chairs in the College and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students.

SEC. 9. A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however,* that among those present is the chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, who is chairman of the Board, or the president of the College who acts as presiding officer in the former's absence. The Board shall convene regularly once every two (2) months. The chairman of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary.

The members of the Board shall not receive salary but shall be entitled to