

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10968, January 18, 2018]

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF), ESTABLISHING THE PQF-
NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL (NCC) AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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 "PQF Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Pursuant to the constitutional guarantee for the State to promote the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education at all levels, the State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

In recognition of the important role of education and training in national development; it is hereby declared the policy of the State to institutionalize the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) to encourage lifelong learning of individuals, provide employees specific training standards and qualifications aligned with, industry standards, ensure that training and educational institutions comply with specific standards and are accountable for achieving corresponding learning outcomes, and provide government with a common taxonomy and qualifications typology as bases for recognizing education and training programs as well as the qualifications formally awarded and their equivalents.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

(a) *Basic Education*, refers to that part of the educational system intended to meet basic learning needs and provides the foundation on which subsequent learning can be based. It encompasses kindergarten, elementary and secondary education as well as alternative learning systems for out-of-school youth and those with special needs;

(b) *Higher Education* refers to post-secondary education offered usually by universities, colleges, academies, or professional/technical institutions with programs leading to academic degrees at the baccalaureate level and academic degrees, diplomas or certificates at the post-baccalaureate levels;

(c) *Qualification* refers to a formal certification that a person has successfully achieved specific learning outcomes relevant to the identified academic, industry or community requirements. A qualification confers official recognition of value in the labor market and in further education and training;

(d) *Technical Vocational Education, and Training* refers to the education involving the study of technology-related sciences, in addition to general education, as well, as the acquisition of practical skills relating to occupations in various sectors of economic life and social life, and which comprises formal (organized programs as part of the school system) and non-formal (organized classes outside the school system) approaches: and

(e) *Trifocalized Education, and Training* refers to the shared administration of the education system by the three (3) agencies responsible for each education level: the Department of Education (DepED) for basic education; the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for technical-vocational education and training; and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for higher education.

SEC. 4. *Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF)*. - A PQF shall be established which shall describe the levels of educational qualifications and sets the standards for qualification outcomes. It is a quality assured national system for the development, recognition and award of qualifications based on standards of knowledge, skills and values acquired in different ways and methods by learners and workers of the country.

The PQF shall have the following objectives:

(a) To adopt national standards and levels of learning outcomes of education;

(b) To support the development and maintenance of pathways and equivalencies that enable access to qualifications and to assist individuals to move easily and readily between the different education and training sectors and between these sectors and the labor market; and

(c) To align domestic qualification standards with the international qualifications framework thereby enhancing recognition of the value and comparability of Philippine qualifications and supporting the mobility of Filipino students and workers.

SEC. 5. *Philippine Qualifications Framework-National Coordinating Council (PQF-NCC)*. - In order to harmonize and promote a seamless education and training system, the PQF-NCC is hereby established. It shall be composed of the following:

(a) The Secretary, DepED, as Chairperson:

(b) The Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as member:

(c) The Chairperson. OHED, as member;

(d) The Director General TESDA. as member;

(e) The Chairperson. Professional Regulation Commission. (PRC). as member;

(f) One (1) representative of the economic sector as member: and

(g) One (1) representative of the industry sector, as member.

The PQF-NCC shall be chaired by the DepED Secretary and shall have the, following powers and functions: