

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8563, February 26, 1998 ]**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE APAYAO INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AIST), AND ITS CONNER EXTENSION HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONNER, PROVINCE OF APAYAO, INTO A CHARTERED STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE APAYAO 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 Apayao Institute of Science and Technology (AIST) in the Municipality of Conner, Province of Apayao, are hereby converted into a chartered State college to be known as the Apayao State College, hereinafter referred to as the State College.

SEC. 2. The State College shall primarily provide higher professional and technical programs, promote research and extension services, advanced studies and progressive leadership in agriculture, industry, environment, forestry, industrial technologies, education, arts and sciences and other fields as may be relevant.

The existing annex high schools in Luna, Calanasan, Sta. Marcela, Kabugao and Pudtol shall be transferred to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports: Provided, That the State College may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school if it has a college of education.

SEC. 3. The State College shall offer undergraduate, graduate and short-term technical courses within its area of specialization, as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly in order to meet the needs of the province.

SEC. 4. The State College shall have the general powers of a corporation as set forth in the corporation law. The administration of the State College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees and the president of the State College insofar as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 5. The governing body of the State College shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), chairman;
- b. The president of the State College, vice chairman;
- c. The Chairman of the Committee on Education, Culture and Arts of the Senate, member;
- d. The Chairman of the Committee on Education and Culture of the House of Representatives, member;

- e. The Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), member;
- f. The president of the faculty association of the State College, member;
- g. The president of the supreme student council of the State College, member;
- h. The president of the alumni association, member; and
- i. At least two (2) prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in their professions, chosen from among a list of at least five (5) persons qualified in the Province of Apayao as recommended by the search committee constituted by the State College president in consultation with the chairman of the CHED based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position, members.

The term of office of the presidents of the faculty association, the alumni association and the supreme student council shall be coterminous with their term of office. The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of four (4) and two (2) years, respectively.

In case of vacancy in the office of the president, the officer-in-charge of the State College designated by the Board shall serve for the unexpired term only.

The president of the State College, whose term may be terminated according to this Act, shall be entitled to full retirement benefits under existing laws.

SEC. 6. The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports, as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722.

SEC. 7. 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 law:

- a. To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the State College;
- b. To receive and allocate all sums as may be provided for the support of the State College in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the State College;
- c. To import duty-free, subject to existing laws, essential commodities, materials and equipment for educational or technological programs, provided such commodities, materials and equipment are not available locally at a comparable price;
- 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 State College and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any. Such donations shall be exempt from all taxes and shall be considered as deductible items from the income tax of the donor;
- e. To fix tuition fees and other necessary school charges as such, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose.

Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the State College, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank and all interest that

shall accrue there from shall form part of the same funds for the use of the State College.

Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the State College from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the State College and may be disbursed by the Board of Trustees for the instruction, research, extension or other programs/projects of the State College: Provided, That all function fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which they are collected. If, for reasons beyond its control, the State College shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved programs of expenditures, the Board of Trustees may authorize the use of the 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 State College.

- f. To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;
- g. To appoint upon recommendation of the president of the State College, vice presidents, deans, directors and heads of departments, and the appointments of faculty members and other officials and employees of the State College;
- h. To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees in accordance with 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 field of education, public service, arts, science 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 in the Province of Apayao, if and when it becomes essential and necessary, where there is no existing school offering similar programs or courses, to promote and carry out equal access in educational opportunities as mandated by the Constitution;
- l. To establish chairs in the State College and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;
- m. To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove to the president and/or other officials of the College as it may deem appropriate so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the State College;
- n. To authorize an external management audit of the institution, to be financed by the CHED and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;
- o. To collaborate with other governing boards of state universities and colleges within the province or the region, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, the restructuring of said colleges and universities to become more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;
- p. To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the College, the