

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7818, November 12, 1994]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE PALAWAN STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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

SECTION 1. The Palawan State College located in the City of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan, is hereby converted into a State university to be known as the Palawan State University, hereinafter referred to as the University.

SEC. 2. The University shall primarily provide higher professional and special instructions for special purposes and promote research and extension services, advanced studies and progressive leadership in education and other fields, including geology and oil exploration, as may be relevant.

SEC. 3. The University shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of education, arts and sciences, and other degree courses as the board of regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives. It shall also offer opportunity in short-term technical or vocational courses within its areas of specialization to meet the needs of the nation.

SEC . 4. The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in the corporation law. 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 insofar as authorized by the board.

SEC. 5. 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 Chairman, Commission on Higher Education, chairman;
- b. The President of the University, 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 his representative, member;
- e. The representative of the National Economic and Development Authority, member;
- f. The president of the faculty association of the University, member;
- g. The president of the supreme student council of the University, member;

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

The president of the alumni association of the University;

The president of the employees association of the University; and

The Chairman of the Committee on Education of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* and the Chairman of the Committee on Education of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*.

The presidents of the alumni association and of the employees association as well as the chairmen of the committees on Education of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* and the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* so appointed by the Board and the representatives of the Senate and the House committee chairmen shall have the same powers, authority, and privileges as the regular members of the Board.

The Chairman, Commission on Higher Education, the President of the University, the education committee chairmen of the Senate and the House, and the representative of the National Economic and Development Authority, shall serve in an *ex officio* capacity, while the presidents of the faculty association and of the supreme student council and, when deemed necessary, the presidents of the alumni association and of the employees association shall serve for one (1) year and, when likewise necessary, for the chairmen of the committees on education of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* and the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* one shall serve for four (4) years and the other for two (2) years.

SEC. 6. 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 . 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 laws:

- a. To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;
- b. 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;
- c. 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 University 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;
- d. 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;

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 interest that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University.

The income generated by the University may, at the discretion of the University, 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.

- e. To authorize the construction or 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 University through the Board shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
- f. To confirm appointments of vice-presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the University made by the President of the University;
- g. To approve the curricula, institutional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein provided;
- h. 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 non-traditional courses;
- i. To establish branches within the Province of Palawan 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 to education opportunities as mandated by the Constitution; and
- j. To establish chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students.

SEC. 8. 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 Chairman, Commission on Higher Education, who is chairman of the Board, or the President of the University 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 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred either in attendance in meetings of the Board or in other official business authorized by resolution of the Board subject to existing laws on and allowances.

SEC . 9. The University shall be headed by a president to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Board and shall hold office for a term of six (6) years without reappointment unless he reaches the age of retirement or earlier removed for cause or incapacitated to discharge the duties of the office.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, resignation, incapacity of the President to perform the functions of his office, or removal for cause, the Board shall have the authority to designate an officer-in-charge of the University pending the appointment of a successor. The new President shall hold