

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9321



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY (PRMSU) - COLLEGE OF MEDICINE", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The ongoing pandemic revealed the shortfalls of our healthcare system. The abject deficiency in the ideal number of doctors per 10,000 population. In a CNN interview in 2016, then Department of Health Secretary Pauline Jean Ubial said that "the Philippines is short of 15,000 doctors to be able to adequately meet the health needs of Filipinos each year with the country producing only 2,600 a year." "The Philippines," she further said, "has a ratio of one doctor for every 33,000 persons which is way below the ideal ratio of 1 doctor per 10,000 population."

The road leading to a medical degree starts with an individual enrolling in a medical school after a rigorous qualifying process. Access to medical education in the Philippines, however, is limited by the cost of medical education and the limited access to medical schools. There are about 58 medical schools, both public and private, all over the country. The geographical distribution of these schools are as follows:

Location	Number of Medical Schools
Mindanao	8
Visayas	14
North Luzon	9
Central Luzon	2
South Luzon	7
National Capital Region	
Valenzuela	1
Quezon City	5
Makati	1
Las Pinas	1
Caloocan	1
Manila	9
TOTAL	58

Of this number, only 38 are accredited by the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges (APMC). In Region III, there are only 2 medical schools, both of which are privately owned and operated. Angeles University Foundation College of Medicine is located in Angeles, Pampanga and the other is La Consolacion University Philippines College of Medicine in Malolos, Bulacan. These 2 medical schools cater to the needs of would-be doctors in the entire central Luzon region.

The cost of a medical education is also one of the deterrents for a hopeful student to become a doctor. Tuition and other fees are exorbitantly high in private medical education institutions as compared to that in public medical schools. Studying in a public institution, the tuition and other fees amount to about Php 160,000/year (about USD3200), while those who attend private schools pay about Php 300,000/year (about USD 6,000). Additionally, there are other costs such as condominium or dormitory rent, food, and living allowances for the entire duration of medical school. Despite the high medical school fees, Philippine medical education is cheaper compared to other countries; for example, in the United States, the cost of

attendance ranges from USD 50,000 to over USD 70,000. Because Philippine medical education is relatively affordable, a considerable number of foreign students from India, Nepal, Africa, and other parts of the world are enrolled in mostly private medical institutions for training. These foreign students also complete in the slots which would have been dedicated to Filipino medical students.

In order to allow medical education to become accessible to poor but deserving students, additional public medical education institutions must be opened. In the Province of Zambales, President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU) is able and capable to offer medical education not only to the budding students of Zambales but also to its neighboring provinces of Bataan, Tarlac, and Pangasinan. Republic Act 11015 otherwise known "As An Act Renaming The Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU) As The President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU), Expanding Its Curricular Offerings And Strengthening Its Governing Board, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 8498, Entitled: "An Act Establishing The Ramon Magsaysay Technological University Out Of The Integration Of The Ramon Magsaysay Polytechnic College In The Municipality Of Iba, The Western Luzon Agricultural College In The Municipality Of San Marcelino And The Candelaria School Of Fisheries In The Municipality Of Candelaria, All In The Province Of Zambales, And Appropriating Funds Therefor" provides the necessary elbow room for PRMSU to offer not only medical education but also its allied medical courses like nursing, midwifery and dentistry. Sections 2 and 3 of the said charter specifically provides, thus:

"Section 2. As a comprehensive state university, the President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU), hereinafter referred to as the University, *shall primarily provide advance and higher professional, technical and special instructions in education and technology, engineering and architecture, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, public administration and management, business and accountancy, economics and finance, tourism, hospitality and culinary management, creative industries, humanities, arts and sciences, information and communications technology, maritime education, law and legal management, medicine and health-related programs, peace and security programs and other related fields of study. It shall also undertake research and extension, as well as income generation programs, for the sustainable development of the Province of Zambales, the region and the country.*

Section 3. *The University shall offer undergraduate and graduate programs in the fields of education technology, engineering and architecture, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, public administration and management, business and accountancy, economics and finance, tourism, hospitality and culinary management, creative industries, humanities, arts and sciences, information and communications technology, maritime education law and legal management, medicine and health-related programs, peace and security programs and other relevant programs 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 Zambales, the region and the country."*

It is in this light that this bill is being filed and immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHERYLE P. DELOSO MONTALLA
Representative
2nd District, Zambales

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9321

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY (PRMSU) - COLLEGE OF MEDICINE”, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment.* – There is hereby established a medical school in the President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU) Main Campus located in the Municipality of Iba, Province of Zambales, which shall be known as the “*President Ramon Magsaysay State University-College of Medicine*”.

SEC. 2. *General Mandate.* – The PRMSU–College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the “College”, shall primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine Program, including the Integrated Liberal Arts and Medicine (INTARMED) Program, consisting of basic science and clinical courses, and using learner-centered and competency-based approach. The primary goal of the College shall be to develop a corps of professional physicians to strengthen the healthcare system of the country, as well as to respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Zambales and Region III.

The College is also mandated to undertake research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SEC. 3. *Governance.* - Being an institution within the PRMSU System, the governance of the College shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the PRMSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers are defined under Republic Act No. 11015, otherwise known “As An Act Renaming The Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU) As The President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU), Expanding Its Curricular Offerings And Strengthening Its Governing Board, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 8498, Entitled: “An Act Establishing The Ramon Magsaysay Technological University Out Of The Integration Of The Ramon Magsaysay Polytechnic College In The Municipality Of Iba, The Western Luzon Agricultural College In The Municipality Of San Marcelino And The Candelaria School Of Fisheries In The Municipality Of Candelaria, All In The Province Of Zambales, And Appropriating Funds Therefor” and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

SEC. 4. *Administration.* – The administration of the College is vested in the Dean of the PRMSU – College of Medicine insofar as authorized by the Board of the University.

SEC. 5. *The College Dean.* – The College shall be headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualifications and standards, and based on the recommendation of the President, following a process of consultation with the constituents of the

College. The Dean shall render full-time service, serve a term of three (3) years, and may be reappointed to another term.

Within six (6) months of the effectivity of this Act, the President of the PRMSU shall constitute the Search Committee for the Deanship.

The powers and duties of the Dean of the College, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean of similar state universities and colleges and those delegated by the President.

The salary of the Dean of the College shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466 or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Deans of similar educational institutions.

In case of a vacancy in the Office of the Dean by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Dean to perform the functions of the office, the Board upon the recommendation of the President, shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the College, pending the appointment of a new Dean. *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

The Dean of the College shall be assisted by a College Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Board.

SEC. 6. *The Faculty.* - The Board shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, the faculty members of the College: *Provided*, That no political belief, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the College: *Provided, further*, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided, finally*, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 7. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.* - The College shall provide scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the College.

No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation, or ethnic origin.

SEC. 8. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* - The College shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

SEC. 9. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies and Detail of Personnel.* - The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the Board, through the President of the PRMSU, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the College, and detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, the apparatus, equipment, supplies or service of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to public service.

The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the Dean of the College and the time so served shall be counted as part of their regular service.

SEC. 10. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* - All appropriations, assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the College, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled or named after the PRMSU.

All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the College shall be the property of the PRMSU, and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, That should the College cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the PRMSU, the same shall revert to the concerned local government unit or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SEC. 11. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.* - The importation by the College of medical books or publications, medical equipment or instruments which are for medical, laboratory or scientific purposes shall, upon certification by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”;

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes by the College, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 12. *Suppletory Application.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,