Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand twenty-one.

[Republic Act No. 11914]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER INTO THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE 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 "Provincial Science and Technology Office Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy and duty of the State to fast-track the transfer of relevant and appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas, particularly in the enhancement and development of technology-based livelihood enterprises in the countryside.

SEC. 3. Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs). — The Provincial Science and Technology Centers (PSTCs) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
which are the principal instruments of technology transfer and
development of technology-based enterprises of the government
in the rural areas are converted into PSTOs. Provided, That
the existing clustered area offices of the DOST in the National
Capital Region (NCR) shall also serve as PSTO to be known
as Clustered Area Science and Technology Offices (CASTOs),
subject to the evaluation and approval of the Department of
Budget and Management (DBM) and existing civil service rules
and regulations.

SEC. 4. Functions of the PSTOs. — The PSTOs shall
have the following functions:

(a) Identify the needs and opportunities in Science and
Technology (S&T) in the provinces;

(b) Implement DOST programs and projects on technology
promotion and transfer, S&T human resource development,
S&T promotion and information dissemination, delivery of
technical and consultancy services, and such other areas of
concern that will benefit the people in the provinces;

(c) Develop institutional linkages with provincial offices
of other departments, local government units (LGUs), academe
and nongovernmental offices for the effective implementation
of S&T programs in the provinces; and

(d) Perform other functions as may be determined by the
DOST Secretary and the Regional Director.

SEC. 5. PSTO Head. — The PSTO shall be headed by
a Chief Science Research Specialist with Salary Grade
(SG) 24. For this purpose, the existing position of Senior
Science Research Specialist with SG 19 which is currently
held by the head of the PSTCs shall be reclassified as Chief
Science Research Specialist.

SEC. 6. Duties and Responsibilities of the PSTO Head. —
The PSTO Head shall have the following duties and
responsibilities:

(a) Formulate the Provincial S&T Plan as well as
programs and projects designed to contribute to the
development of the province/clustered area;
(b) Implement and monitor the various technology promotion and commercialization programs such as, but not limited to, the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) and the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST);

(c) Promote the adoption of appropriate technologies by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to improve their operational efficiency and increase productivity as well as to harness the results of scientific research and innovations to produce new and competitive products and services;

(d) Disseminate S&T-related information and Research and Development (R&D) results through the conduct of trainings, technology fora and similar activities;

(e) Maintain effective liaison with public and private academic institutions and other government agencies engaged in scientific and technological research, technology transfer and commercialization, education, and training;

(f) Coordinate with LGUs and academic institutions for the promotion of scholarship programs aimed to attract science-oriented students to pursue basic and applied sciences to broaden the S&T human resource in the province/clustered area;

(g) Coordinate with public and private organizations in the implementation of human resource and institutional development programs in the province/clustered area;

(b) Promote science consciousness and appreciation among the people of the province/clustered area;

(i) Serve as focal person for S&T inter-agency meetings, conferences, and similar activities in the province/clustered area;

(j) Perform overall supervision of services and operations of the PSTO;

(k) Ensure that appropriate quality management systems are properly implemented and maintained in accordance with
international standards in all aspects of operations of the PSTO; and

(i) Perform other related functions as may be assigned by higher authorities from time to time.

SEC. 7. Staffing Pattern. - The Secretary of the DOST shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the PSTO in accordance with civil service laws, rules, and regulations, subject to the review and approval of the DBM.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. - The initial amount for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOST. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DOST, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectiveness of this Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO
Speaker of the House of Representatives

VICENTE F. SOTTO III
President of the Senate

This Act was passed by the Senate of the Philippines as Senate Bill No. 2484 on May 23, 2022 and adopted by the House of Representatives as an amendment to House Bill No. 10603 on May 30, 2022.

MARK L. ANAYA L. MENDOZA
Secretary General
House of Representatives

MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President of the Philippines

Approved:

Leased into law on JUL 8 2022
without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 27 (1) of the Constitution.
International standards in all aspects of operations of the PSTO; and

(i) Perform other related functions as may be assigned by higher authorities from time to time.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

VICENTE L. SOTTO III
President of the Senate

This Act was passed by the Senate of the Philippines as Senate Bill No. 2484 on May 23, 2022 and adopted by the House of Representatives as an amendment to House Bill No. 10693 on May 30, 2022.

MARK L. ANGEL DE MENDOZA
Secretary General

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President of the Philippines

Approved and signed into law on JUL 3, 2022
without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 27(4) of the Constitution.