



Press Release

April 23, 2018

30,000 Palaweño college students to benefit from Free Higher Education; UniFAST Board vows to reach IP communities in the province



Stakeholders from Higher Education and Technical-Vocational sectors attended the Palawan leg of the Nationwide Information Caravan on RA 10931

More than 250 higher education and technical-vocational stakeholders in and around Puerto Princesa City attended the “Nationwide Information Caravan for R.A. 10931 or Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA)” Region 4B-Palawan leg. The event, aimed to ensure the successful implementation of the landmark law, happened at the Aziza Paradise Hotel on April 4, 2018.

CHED 4-B Director Dr. Virginia D. Akiate welcomed the attendees from Palawan-based State Universities and Colleges, Private Higher Education Institutions, Technical-Vocational Institutions, government agencies, and national and local media agencies.

On her keynote message, UniFAST Secretariat Officer-in-Charge Executive Director Atty. Carmelita Yadao-Sison discussed the provisions of UAQTEA in formulating and implementation of affirmative action programs to extend additional benefits to disadvantaged students especially those who belong to the indigenous people (IP) groups. In Palawan, there are three major IP groups including the Bataks, Palaw'ans and Tagbanuas.

“Mahirap man o mayaman, matalino man o may sapat na kakayahan, ano man ang ating tinaguriang “gender,” wala na pong balakid sa pagkamit ng Free Higher Education, Free Technical-Vocational Education, pati ang Tertiary Education Subsidy na kung saan nakapaloob ang dati nating ESGP-PA scholars, at ang Student Loan Program,” Atty. Yadao-Sison emphasized.



UniFAST Secretariat Officer-in-Charge Executive Director Atty. Carmelita Yadao-Sison discusses provisions of UAQTEA regarding affirmative action programs to extend additional benefits to disadvantaged students especially those who belong to the indigenous people (IP) groups

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Palawan Provincial Director Renato M. Pantaleon likewise encourage all stakeholders to help in disseminating information about UAQTEA to reach far-flung communities in the province.

“With TESDA, may gagamitin din siyang instrument to prioritize (disadvantaged people). Lahat kasi kailangang maka-access,” Pantaleon said.

In Palawan, Palawan State University (PSU) and Western Philippines University (WPU) students and those enrolled in their satellite campuses will benefit from the UAQTEA. The two universities registered a combined 28,726 enrollees in Academic Year 2016-2017.

Listed below are the locations of the campuses of the Palawan State University:

- Puerto Princesa City (main)
- Araceli
- Balabac
- Bataraza
- Brooke's Point
- Coron
- Cuyo
- Dumaran
- Linapacan
- Narra
- New Ibajay, El Nido
- Quezon
- Rizal
- Roxas
- San Rafael, Puerto Princesa City
- San Vicente
- Sofrono, Espanola
- Taytay

Locations of the campuses of Western Philippines University:

- Puerto Princesa City (main)
- Busuanga
- El Nido
- Quezon
- Rio Tuba
- San Juan, Aborlan
- Monica, Puerto Princesa

The next leg of UAQTEA National Information Caravan on RA 10931 will be held in Iloilo City Convention Center on April 11.

#