



Press Release

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No SUCs or LUCs in your area? Tertiary Education Subsidy under R.A. 10931 to help students in private colleges and universities avail free education



Stakeholders from Northern Mindanao and ARMM-based State and Local Universities and Colleges, Private Higher Education Institutions, Technical-Vocational Institutions, and representatives from local governments and media agencies attended the Nationwide Information Caravan on R.A. 10931 at The Atrium of Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro City.

Deserving students who are enrolled in Philippine private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will also benefit under Republic Act 10931 or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.”

Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES), a program under the landmark legislation, was highlighted Wednesday during the Northern Mindanao / ARMM leg of the Nationwide Information Caravan on R.A. 10931 at the Limketkai Center in Cagayan de Oro City.

UniFAST Governing Board Member, Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA) President, and Pilgrim Christian College President Dr. Pio Bacongá emphasized that the law is not just for students in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs).

“Providing quality education is the duty of the government. The Implementing Rules and Regulations (of the law) recognizes the complimentary roles of public and private institutions. The TES is where the private institutions can come in,” Bacongá said.



UniFAST Governing Board Member and COCOPEA President Dr. Pio Bacongá delivers keynote speech at the Nationwide Information Caravan on R.A. 10931

COCOPEA is composed of five private educational associations: Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities (ACSCU), Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU), Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAPSCU), and Technical Vocational Schools Association of the Philippines (TEVSAPHIL).

UniFAST Secretariat Officer-in-Charge Executive Director Atty. Carmelita Yadao-Sison further discussed the TES program, which prioritizes support to students from the poorest of the poor households.

“TES program will prioritize students who are existing beneficiaries of the CHED Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA), and students considered as poor based on the National Household Targeting System or *Listahan 2.0*,” Yadao-Sison said.



UniFAST Secretariat OIC/Exec. Director Atty. Carmelita Yadao-Sison discusses Tertiary Education Subsidy provision of the R.A.10931 or "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act"

The TES prioritization system shall not apply to Filipino students in cities and municipalities with no existing SUCs or CHED-recognized LUCs.

TES, considered as grants-in-aid, will cover students in both private and public HEIs and has three categories:

- TES 1 which covers tuition and other school fees in private schools
- TES 2 which covers living allowance and educational supplies and materials
- TES 3 which provides additional support for students with disabilities and / or those in courses required to undergo licensure exams

Based on UniFAST's estimate, at least 1.2 million students are potential eligible TES beneficiaries just among 16-22 years old high school graduate students without tertiary degree belonging to *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* households, this coming academic year.