



Republic of the Philippines  
**Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education**

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**MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

For : **ALL CHED REGIONAL DIRECTORS**  
Commission on Higher Education

Attention: **ALL UNIFAST REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

From :   
**ATTY. CARMELITA YADAO-SISON MNSA, PhD.**  
OIC, Executive Director IV  
Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education

Subject: **RELEASE OF THE ENHANCED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATION (IRR) OF THE FREE HIGHER EDUCATION LAW: RA 10931 - Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act**

Date : 15 March 2018

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has released the enhanced Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA) on March 14, 2018 during the Press Conference held at the 4/F Conference Room, C.P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

OIC - Chairperson J. Prospero De Vera III extensively discussed the salient features of the enhanced IRR and elaborated to the media the rationale, programs under RA 10931, funding provided in the amount of P40 Billion, which were all approved by the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Governing Board.

During the press conference, Commissioner De Vera announced that all Filipino college undergraduates enrolled in SUCs and CHED-recognized LUCs shall no longer pay tuition and other school fees, subject to admission and retention policies of institutions and future qualification policies mandated by the UniFAST Board.

Starting Academic Year (AY) 2018-2019, the UAQTEA will provide free tuition, miscellaneous and other similar or related fees defined by the IRR for students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and CHED-recognized Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs). Miscellaneous fees include library, computer, laboratory, school ID, athletic, admission, development, guidance, handbook, entrance, registration, medical, dental, and cultural fees.



Commissioner De Vera emphasized that the UAQTEA also provides a Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) or grants-in-aid, free Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for those enrolled in state-run Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs), and a national Student Loan Program (SLP)."

All SUCs, LUCs and TVIs shall formulate and implement affirmative action programs to enhance the ability of disadvantaged students, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and students from depressed or conflicted affected areas. These programs shall be approved by the respective boards of the SUCs and CHED-recognized LUCs and submitted to CHED within one year after the approval of the IRR.

The UniFAST is the agency created under Republic Act 10687 mandated to implement all the identified programs stated in RA 10931. To ensure the successful implementation of the IRR, CHED-UniFAST will hold a series of Nationwide Information Caravan on RA 10931 in Seventeen (17) regions of the Philippine Archipelago on March 2018 to Mid of June 2018.

All Regional Directors of the Commission on Higher Education are hereby enjoined and directed to disseminate the information on the enhanced IRR and utilized the attached documents. Copies of the enhanced IRR shall be circulated as soon as all processes for its issuance is completed.

Thank you for your immediate compliance and support to the CHED-UniFAST.