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Quality in Sync: Examining the Harmonisation Touchpoints of Philippine Teacher Education Quality Assurance Standards and Practices

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ABSTRACT The underperformance of Philippine teacher education programs is frequently attributed to the fragmented coordination among quality assurance (QA) agencies. Addressing this challenge, there is a growing imperative to harmonise the country's higher education QA system. This study explores how greater coherence might be achieved by identifying areas of convergence in QA standards and practices within the regulatory frameworks of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). Grounded in a preliminary study using Multi-Grounded Theory, six theoretical QA standards and seven conformance practices were uncovered. Using heat mapping analysis, the study revealed strong convergence in curriculum structure, faculty qualifications, infrastructure, and student support. Similarly, alignment was evident in curriculum design, faculty recruitment, performance monitoring, and institutional collaboration. Despite existing variations, these shared areas present opportunities to develop a more coherent QA framework, paving the way for a unified QA system that enhances teacher education quality to better meet evolving national priorities and global education standards.