

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'04 JUN 30 P10:39

SENATE
S.B. No. 980

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Sec. 17 of the 1987 Constitution states that: "The State shall recognize, respect and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies."

It is therefor, explicit that the State is mandated to establish, maintain, and ensure adequate social services in the field of education, health, housing, employment, welfare and social security to guarantee the enjoyment by the Filipino people, irrespective of color or creed, of a decent standard of living.

The national tribal communities continue to live in the same manner they used to be in the past. We find the various regions of the country with little visible substantial changes in their standards of living. The benefits of improved health care and housing seem to be negligible in the minority areas and no appreciable improvement can be seen especially with the unstable peace and order prevailing in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras.

This bill seeks to establish Pilot Tribal Communities and/or Housing Projects in each and every region in the Philippines, including Metro Manila, which shall serve as model human settlements that will adhere or conform to their cultures and traditions. At the same time, it shall provide the basic convenience of modern living such as health, education, livelihood and recreational facilities .

Under this proposed measure, it is believed that with the introduction or establishment of these human settlements the tribal minorities, both Christian and Muslims, will no longer feel that they neglected and the resultant benefits would be better understanding and harmony among all Filipinos of diverse religious beliefs.

In view of the foregoing considerations, early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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SENATE
S.B. No. 980

RECEIVED BY: *L. Ejercito*

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

AN ACT

TO PRESCRIBE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND/OR HOUSING IN EACH AND EVERY REGION IN THE PHILIPPINES, INCLUDING METRO MANILA, WHICH SHALL SERVE AS MODEL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS THAT WILL ADHERE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, TO THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF THE NATIONAL TRIBAL COMMUNITIES, WHILE PROVIDING THE BASIC CONVENIENCES OF MODERN LIVING, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Pilot Tribal Communities Act of 2004.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to establish, maintain and ensure adequate shelter, education, health, employment, welfare and other social services to national tribal communities and towards this end, the State shall establish pilot tribal communities and/or housing projects in order to extend to such minorities the benefits now being enjoyed by the other cultural sectors of the country while endeavoring to preserve and enhance the distinctive cultures and traditions of such tribal groups in the various regions.

SEC. 3. Implementing of Policy. – In order to preserve and enhance the cultures and traditions of specific tribal communities in the Philippines, the Office of Muslim Affairs, Northern Cultural Communities and Southern Cultural Communities, in consultation with the Office of the President, shall establish a pilot tribal community and/or housing project in each region including Metro Manila.

SEC. 4. Acquisition of Site the Pilot Tribal Community.- The Offices of Muslim Affairs, Northern Cultural Communities and Southern Cultural Communities are hereby authorized to acquire by purchase, grant, donation or any other mode of

acquisition, such adequate and appropriate suites as may be necessary to implement this Act and shall cause to be prepared such suitable and distinctive plans, architectural and engineering designs for the pilot tribal community in communities which will be reflective of the culture and traditions of the tribal community in whose behalf the pilot tribal community and/or housing projects shall be established.

SEC. 5. *Basic Service.* – In every Pilot Tribal Community and/or housing project to be established, there shall be integrated health, education and recreation facilities. The design, function and services of which shall as far, as practicable, blend and harmonize with the environmental setting adopted for the project.

SEC. 6. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Offices of Muslim Affairs, Northern Cultural Communities and the Southern Cultural Communities, under the Office of the President, shall coordinate and issue the necessary rules and regulations with respect to application and agreement for occupancy of the tribes concerned.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the establishments and construction of such project, not to exceed the amount approved by the President of the Philippines, shall be funded out of the appropriation not otherwise appropriated in the National Treasury which shall be recommended by the Offices of Muslim Affairs, Northern Cultural Communities and Southern Cultural Communities. Such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,