


13th Congress of the Republic)
of the Philippines)
First Regular Session)

SECRET

04 JUN 30 PM 12

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1147

Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.

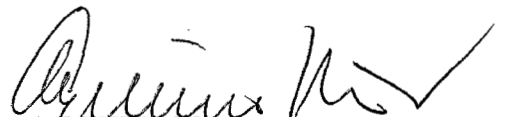
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks the creation of the Mindanao Development Corporation, abolishing for this purpose the Southern Philippine Development Administration created under Presidential Decree No. 690, as amended.

Our 1987 Constitution, specifically Section 1 of Article XII mandates the State to promote industrialization based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform. Thus, in the pursuit of this goal, all sectors of the economy and all regions of this country shall be given opportunity to develop. Optimum opportunity for development can be achieved with the creation of a government corporation equipped with the necessary governmental support and technical expertise to draw up the necessary framework for socioeconomic growth of the region comprising Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan, considering the strategic importance of the said areas in terms of location and natural wealth. This comprehensive and detailed plan designed to promote the region's rapid social and economic development must be in consonance with the policies set forth by the National Economic Development Authority.

Thus, accelerated economic growth and sustained development of the region is a response towards "national solidarity with the leadership, support and total commitment of the government."

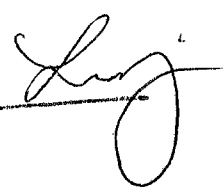
In view of the foregoing, approval of the proposed bill is earnestly recommended.


AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.

13^h Congress of the Republic)
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DEC 30 11:12

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AN ACT
CREATING THE MINDANAO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND
APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I

CREATION AND ORGANIZATION OF CORPORATION

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as "Mindanao Development Corporation act of 2004."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to foster the accelerated and balanced growth of the Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan region, hereinafter referred to as the region, within the context of national plans and policies for social and economic development, through the leadership, guidance and support of the government. To achieve this end, it is recognized that a government corporation should be created for the purpose of drawing up the necessary plans for regional development; providing leadership in the setting up of pioneering or ground-breaking industrial and agricultural enterprises; coordinating or integrating the diverse efforts of the various public and private entities directly engaged in implementing plans and projects

affecting power, manufacturing, mining, transportation and communication, conservation, resettlement, education, extension work, health and other activities leading to the rapid socioeconomic growth of the region; and extending or facilitating the extension of financial, management and technical support to worthwhile industrial and commercial ventures within the region.

SECTION 3. Mindanao Development Corporation. - There is hereby created a body corporate to be known as the Mindanao Development Corporation, hereinafter referred to as the Corporation, which shall be organized within sixty days after the approval of this Act and shall exist for fifty years. The Corporation shall execute the powers and functions herein vested and conferred upon it in such manner as will, in its judgment, aid to the fullest possible extent in carrying out the aims and purposes set forth below.

SECTION 4. Incorporation. - The members of the Board of Directors first appointed shall be deemed the incorporators and the incorporation shall be held to have been effected from the date of the first meeting of such Board.

SECTION 5. Location of Principal Office. - The Corporation shall maintain its principal office at a convenient place within the region, but it may have branch offices in other places as are necessary for the proper conduct of its business. After the selection of the location of its principal office, or in the event it later makes a change in such location, the Corporation shall publish notice of such selection or change in the Official Gazette.

CHAPTER II

PURPOSES

SECTION 6. Purposes. - The Corporation shall have the following purposes:

- a) To make a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural resources and potentialities of the region, including its social conditions, values and institutions, and special regional problems and, on the basis thereof, to draft a comprehensive and detailed plan designed to promote the region's rapid social and economic development along the general lines set forth by the National Economic Development Authority: Provided, That the said plan shall first be referred to the President who shall act upon it within a period of three months from the date of submission;
- b) To provide the machinery for extending the necessary planning, management and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors in the area;
- c) To make recommendations to the proper agencies on the peso or dollar financing, technical support, physical assistance and, generally, the level of priority to be accorded industrial and agricultural projects soliciting or requiring direct help from or through the government or any of its instrumentalities;
- d) To coordinate and/or integrate such projects or operations of local governments, governmental agencies, public corporations and, where clearly necessary and feasible, those of private entities, as bear directly upon the plans and activities of the Corporation so as to make possible the accelerated and balanced development of the region within the context of the guidelines formulated by the National Economic Development Authority; for this purpose, to set up a

compact and well-trained staff for effective liaison and consultation or joint planning and/or implementation with such government and private entities": Provided, That disputes involving jurisdiction between the Corporation and any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government within the area covered by this Act, and those arising in the coordination or integration of government plans, projects, or operations in the area shall be settled by the President of the Philippines;

- e) To engage in industry, agriculture, or other enterprises within the region which may be necessary or directly contributory to the socioeconomic development of the region and, for this purpose, whether by itself or in cooperation with private persons or entities, to organize, finance, invest in, and operate subsidiary corporation when such an agreement is clearly necessary to implement the powers granted to it by this Act: Provided, That the Corporation shall engage only in those activities as are in the nature of pioneering ventures or are demonstrably beyond the scope, capacity, or interest of purely private enterprise due to considerations of geography, technical or capital requirements, returns on investment and risk;
- f) To advise and cooperate in the readjustment, relocation or resettlement of population in any part of the country that may be displaced or affected by the socioeconomic measures of the government in cooperation with the national, provincial city and municipal agencies organized towards that end;
- g) To make a report annually to the National Economic Development Authority and the Congress through the President, based upon its continuing assessment and evaluation, in light of the Corporation's

approved plans and objectives, of the progress of its activities including those done in collaboration with the various government and private entities engaged in the implementation of socioeconomic plans and projects in the region, including in such report, among other items, a general survey of the social and economic conditions of the region, socioeconomic problems having special reference to the work of the Corporation, a comparison of the development targets set for the year ending and the manner in which actual accomplishments measure up to such targets, and appropriate administrative and legislative recommendations.

CHAPTER III

CORPORATE POWERS

SECTION 7. Powers and Functions. - Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, the Corporation shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) To succeed in its corporate name;
- b) To sue and be sued in such corporate name;
- c) To adopt, alter, and use a corporation seal, which shall be judicially noticed;
- d) To make contracts of any kind and description to enable it to discharge its functions under this Act;
- e) To adopt, amend and repeal its by-laws;
- f) To acquire, lease, or hold such personal and real property as it deems necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business and lease, mortgage, sell, alienate, or otherwise dispose of any such personal and

real property held by it, but it not sell its properties and products for delivery or use outside of the Philippines without the approval of the President;

- g) To hold agricultural lands in excess of the areas permitted to private corporations or associations by the Constitution;
- h) To exercise the right of eminent domain in the name of the Republic of the Philippines, and in the acquisition of real estate by condemnation proceedings, the title to such real estate shall be taken in the name of the Republic of the Philippines, and thereupon all such real estate shall be entrusted to the Corporation as the agent of the Republic of the Philippines to accomplish the aims and purposes of this Act;
- i) To make such regulations as are necessary to execute the power and functions vested in it by this Act;
- j) To borrow funds from any local or foreign financial institution independent of the bonds it has issued or may still issue, to finance its projects: *Provided*, That the total loan outstanding pursuant to this provision shall not exceed three hundred million pesos at any one time;
- k) To purchase, hold, alienate, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise dispose of the shares of the capital stock, or any bond, security, or other evidence of indebtedness created by any other corporation or copartnership of this or any other country, and while the owner of said stock, to exercise all the rights of ownership, including the right to vote thereon;
- l) For carrying on its business, or for the purpose of attaining or furthering any of its objectives, to perform any and all acts which a corporation, copartnership, or natural person is authorized to perform under the laws now existing or which may be enacted hereafter.

CHAPTER IV
CAPITALIZATION AND FINANCING

SECTION 8. Capitalization. - The Corporation shall have an authorized capital of five hundred million pesos (₱500,000,000.00) which shall be fully subscribed by the Republic of the Philippines and shall be paid out as follows:

- a) The sum of Fifty million pesos (₱50,000,000.00), which is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any general fund in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and from proceeds of bond issues, loans and from any other sources of income of the National Government, upon approval of this Act;
- b) The sum of Fifty million pesos (₱50,000,000.00) for every fiscal year thereafter for a period of nine years, from the same sources mentioned in paragraph (a) hereof, which is hereby authorized to be appropriated and to be included in the General Appropriations Acts for such subsequent years beginning with the fiscal year 2002-2003. The authorized capital of Five hundred million pesos (₱500,000,000.00) shall constitute a revolving fund for the purpose of financing its business transaction, except as herein provided for.

SECTION 9. Operating Expenses. - For the operating expenses of the Corporation in fiscal year 2002-2003, the sum of ten million pesos (₱10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any general fund in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. For the succeeding fiscal years, the Board of Directors may appropriate out of the Corporation's paid-in-capital a sum not exceeding ten million pesos (₱10,000,000.00) during each fiscal

year for operating expenses and a standing annual appropriation is hereby made out of any general fund in the National Treasury of such sum as may be necessary to reimburse the Corporation of the total amount actually expended out of the said ten million pesos for overhead expenses at the end of each fiscal year, which reimbursement shall accrue to the revolving fund. The unexpended balance of the appropriation for overhead expenses at the end of each fiscal year shall automatically revert to the said revolving fund and whatever earnings of the Corporation, if any, shall also accrue to the revolving fund.

SECTION 10. Power to Issue Bonds. - Whenever the Board may deem it necessary for the Corporation to incur an indebtedness or to issue bonds to carry out the provisions of this Act, it shall, by resolution, so declare and state the purpose for which the proposed debt is to be incurred. In order that such resolution be valid, it shall be passed by the affirmative vote of at least three members of such Board and approved by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance, after consultation with the National Economic Development Authority and the Monetary Board of the Central Bank.

SECTION 11. Bond Limits. - The bonds issued under this provision shall in no case exceed the amount of One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00): **Provided,** That no single issue shall exceed Twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) and that no further issue shall be made if eighty per centum of the immediately preceding issue is not yet sold.

The bonds shall be issued in such amounts as will be needed at any one time, taking into account the rate at which said bonds may be absorbed by the

buying public and the fund requirements of projects ready for execution, and considering further a proper balance between productive and non-productive projects so that inflation shall be held to the minimum.

SECTION 12. Form, rates of interest, etc. of bonds. - The Secretary of Finance, in consultation with the Monetary Board, shall prescribe the form, the rates of interest, the denominations, maturities, negotiability, convertibility, call and redemption features and all other terms and conditions of issuance, placement, sale, servicing, redemption, and payment of all bonds issued under the authority of this Act.

The bonds issued by virtue of this Act may be made payable both as to principal and interest in Philippine currency or any readily convertible foreign currency. Said bonds shall be receivable as security in any transaction with the Government in which such security is required.

SECTION 13. Exemption from Tax. - The Corporation shall be exempt from all taxes incidental to its operations: *Provided*, That its subsidiary corporations shall be subject to all said taxes five years after their establishment under a graduated scale as follows: twenty per centum of all said taxes during the sixth year, forty per centum of all said taxes during the seventh year, sixty per centum of all said taxes during the eighth year, eighty per centum of all said taxes during the ninth year, and one hundred per centum of all said taxes during the tenth year. Such exemption shall include any tax or fee imposed by the government on the sale, purchase or transfer of foreign exchange. All notes, bonds and debentures and other obligations issued by the Corporation shall be

exempt from all taxes, both as to principal and interest, except inheritance and gift taxes.

SECTION 14. Sinking Fund. - A sinking fund shall be established in such manner that the total annual contributions thereto, accrued at such rate of interest as may be determined by the Secretary of Finance in consultation with the monetary Board, shall be sufficient to redeem at maturity the bonds issued under this Act. Said fund shall be under the custody of the Central Bank of the Philippines which shall invest the same in such manner as the Monetary Board may approve; charge all expenses of such investments to said sinking fund, and credit the same with the interest on investments and other income belonging to it.

SECTION 15. Guarantee by the government. - The Republic of the Philippines hereby guarantees the payment by the Corporation of both the principal and the interest of the bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or such other obligations issued by the Corporation by virtue of this Act, and shall pay such principal and interest in case the Corporation fails to do so. In the event that the Corporation shall be unable to pay the said principal and interest, the Secretary of Finance shall pay the amount thereof which is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and thereupon, to the extent of the amounts so paid, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall succeed to all the rights of the holders of such bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or other obligations unless the sums so paid by the Republic of the Philippines shall be refunded by the Corporation within a reasonable time.

CHAPTER V

MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL

SECTION 16. Board of Directors; Composition. - The corporate powers of the Corporation shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of five members appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. The President shall designate from among the members of the Board its Chairman, who shall at the same time be the General Manager of the Corporation, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary.

SECTION 17. Acting Chairman-General Manager. - In case of vacancy in the position of the Chairman-General Manager and the President has not yet filled the same in accordance with the Preceding section, or in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman-General Manager, the most senior member of the Board in length of service as member thereof who meets the qualifications set forth in Section 28 of this Act shall act as Chairman-General Manager.

SECTION 18. Appointment and Tenure. - The term of office of the first members of the Board shall expire as designated by the President at the time of nomination: one at the end of the second year; two at the end of the fourth year; and two, including the Chairman-General Manager, at the end of the sixth year after the approval of this Act. A successor to a member of the Board shall be appointed in the same manner as the original member and shall have a term of office expiring six years from the date of the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed.

SECTION 19. Vacancy Before Expiration of Term. - Any member appointed to fill a vacancy in the Board occurring prior to the expiration of the terms for which his predecessor was appointed shall serve only for the unexpired period.

SECTION 20. Effect of Vacancies; Quorum. - Vacancies in the Board, as long as there shall be three members in office, shall not impair the powers of the Board to execute the functions of the Corporation; three of the members of the Board in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board.

SECTION 21. Qualifications of Directors. - All members of the Board shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines. No person shall be appointed as a member of the Board unless he be of unquestioned integrity and familiar with the technical aspects of socioeconomic development.

Economists, planners, financial and management experts and other technical personnel employed in other government agencies shall not be barred from serving as members of the Board and receiving *per diems* therefor: *Provided,* That their appointment is made with the consent of their respective chiefs of offices.

SECTION 22. Disqualification. - No member of the Board shall directly or indirectly engage in partisan political activities or practice any profession or business, which may be affected by or related to the exercise of the Corporation's functions and powers. Violation of this section shall constitute a ground for dismissal.

SECTION 23. Prohibition against "conflict-of-interest". - No member of the Board shall be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract entered into by the Corporation or in any special privilege granted by the Corporation during his term of office. Violation of this prohibition shall constitute a ground for dismissal.

SECTION 24. Removal for Cause; Courtesy Resignation. - A member of the Board may be suspended or removed by the President only for cause. No member of the Board shall be required to submit a courtesy resignation at any time during his term of office.

SECTION 25. Board Meetings. - The Board shall meet as frequently as is necessary to perform his duties, but shall meet at least once every month. The Board shall be convoked by the Chairman or upon written request signed by a majority of the members.

SECTION 26. Per Diems. - The members of the Board, except the Chairman-General Manager, shall receive for every meeting attended a per diem of five hundred pesos: *Provided*, That in no case will the total amount received by each exceed the sum of Ten thousand pesos for any one month. The Corporation shall reimburse members of the Board for actual expenses (including traveling and subsistence expenses) incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 27. Powers of General Manager. - The General Manager shall be the chief executive of the Corporation. As such, he shall have the following powers and duties:

- a) To prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Board and to submit for the consideration thereof the policies and measures which he believes to be necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act;
- b) To execute and administer the policies and measures approved by the Board;
- c) To direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the Corporation. The General Manager may delegate certain of his administrative responsibilities to other officers of the Corporation subject to the rules and regulations of the Board; and
- d) To exercise such other power as may be vested in him by the Board.

SECTION 28. Qualifications of General Manager. - In addition to the qualifications for directors set forth in Section 20 of this Act, no person shall be appointed General Manager unless he be of demonstrated executive competence and experienced in the field of public administration or the management of agricultural, industrial, or commercial enterprises.

SECTION 29. Compensation. - The General Manager shall receive a compensation of One hundred eighty five thousand pesos (P185,000.00) per annum which shall be charged against the Corporation's annual appropriation for operating expenses.

SECTION 30. Residence Requirement. - The General Manager shall be required to reside in the vicinity of the Corporation's principal office. He shall be prohibited from engaging in any business, calling or profession during the whole period of his office.

SECTION 31. Activities of the Corporation: Key Officials. - The activities of the Corporation shall be carried out under the supervision of the General Manager through the following administering officials who will be responsible directly to him:

- a) An assistant General Manager who shall head the Department of Planning and Research;
- b) An assistant General Manager who shall head the program Implementation Department which shall take charge of implementing specific projects undertaken by the Corporation;
- c) A General Counsel with the rank of department head to advise and represent the Corporation on legal matters, procedures, and actions;
- d) Such other officials as the Board of Directors may consider necessary for the efficient conduct of the Corporation's activities:

SECTION 32. Merit System. - All officials, agents and employees of the Corporation shall be selected and appointed on the basis of merit and fitness in accordance with a comprehensive and progressive merit system to be established by the Corporation immediately upon its organization and in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations. The recruitment, transfer, promotion and dismissal of all Corporation personnel, including temporary workers, shall be governed by such merit system.

SECTION 33. Appointment by Board. - The Board, upon recommendation of the General Manager shall appoint division chiefs and officials of higher rank.

SECTION 34. Appointment by General Manager. - Employees and officials below the rank of division chief shall be appointed to positions in the approved budget by the General Manager upon written recommendation of the head of the department concerned using as guide the standards set forth in the Corporation's merit system: *Provided*, That the General Manager shall submit a quarterly report to the Board regarding personnel selection, placement and training.

SECTION 35. Minimum Wage. - All contracts entered into by the Corporation which require the employment of persons shall contain provision that not less than the minimum wage fixed by law or the current rate of wage of work of a similar nature prevailing in the vicinity where such work is to be done, whichever is higher, shall be paid to such persons so employed.

SECTION 36. Wage Dispute. - In the event a dispute arises as to what are the prevailing rates of wages for a particular work in a particular vicinity, the question shall be referred to the Secretary of Labor, who shall give due regard to those rates which have been secured through collective bargaining by the representatives of employees and employers.

SECTION 37. Provision for Equivalent Wages. - Where such work as described in the two preceding sections is done directly by the authority, the prevailing rates of wages shall be paid in the same manner as though such work had been let by contract.

SECTION 38. Other Benefits. - As far as applicable, the benefits granted by existing labor laws shall extend to persons given employment under the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 39. Plans to be formulated within One Year. - Upon its organization, the Corporation shall formulate and report to the President of the Philippines, within one year, its plans and recommendations for the accelerated and balanced development of the region within the context of the guidelines set forth by the National Economic Development Authority and in accordance with the aims and purposes of this Act.

SECTION 40. Approval of Plans. - Upon approval by the President of the plans and recommendations referred to in the next preceding section in accordance with Chapter II, Section 6 (a) of this Act, he shall direct the Corporation to implement them with dispatch and efficiency. The President shall issue such executive orders or proclamations as may be necessary to reserve or transfer such lands or public property to the Corporation as are needed by it to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 41. Corporation Directly under President. - Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the Corporation shall operate as an independent corporation subject only to supervision by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 42. Supplies and Services other than Personal. - All purchases of supplies or contracts for services, except for personal services, entered into by the Corporation, shall be done only after the proper bidding is held: *Provided*, That bidding shall not be required when: (1) an emergency, as certified to by the General Manager, requires immediate delivery of the supplies or performance of the services, or (2) the aggregate amount involved in any purchase of supplies or procurement of services does not exceed Ten thousand pesos (₱10,000.00), in which case, such purchase or procurement may be made in the usual course of business: *Provided, further*, That the Corporation's emergency purchases of supplies and services shall not exceed the amount of Ten thousand pesos (₱10,000.00) for any one month: *Provided, finally*, That in comparing bids and in making awards, the Corporation shall consider such factors as the cost and relative quality and adaptability of supplies or services; the bidder's financial responsibility, skill, experience, integrity, and ability to furnish repairs and maintenance services; the time of delivery or performance offered; and the bidder's compliance with the specification desired.

SECTION 43. Auditing. - The Auditor General shall be ex officio Auditor in charge of the auditing office of the Corporation. He shall appoint a representative who shall be the auditor thereof. The Auditor General shall, upon recommendation of the auditor of the Corporation, appoint or remove personnel of the said auditing office in accordance with the Corporation's merit system. The operating expenses of this office and the salaries and traveling expenses of these officials and employees thereof shall be fixed by the Board and paid by the Corporation. Such representative shall render a semestral report on the financial condition and operations of the Corporation to the Auditor General and the

Board. The Auditor General shall submit to the President and the Congress an annual report covering the financial condition and operations of the Corporation.

These auditing reports shall contain a statement of the resources and liabilities including earnings and expenses, the amount of paid-up capital stock, surplus, reserves and profits, as well as losses, bad debts and such other facts which under auditing rules and regulations, are considered necessary to accurately describe the financial condition and operations of the Corporation: *Provided*, That before such reports are made, the Corporation shall be given reasonable opportunity to examine the exception and criticisms of the auditor of the Corporation or the Auditor General, as the case may be, to point out, explain or answer any inaccuracies therein, if any, and to file a statement which shall be appended by the Auditor of the Corporation and the Auditor General in their respective reports.

SECTION 44. Abolition of Existing Agency. - The Southern Philippine Development Administration created under Presidential Decree No. 690, as amended, is hereby abolished and all its appropriations, assets and liabilities as of the date of the approval of this Act are hereby transferred to the Corporation to be effected within a period of sixty (60) days after the constitution of the Board of Director: *Provided*, That all the qualified civil service employees of the Southern Philippine Development Administration shall be given preference in the filling up of positions in the Corporation.

All outstanding contracts of the Southern Philippine Development Corporation with other agencies and/or instrumentalities of the government or those with private entities are assumed by the Corporation.

SECTION 45. Gratuity. - An employee or officer of the Southern Philippine Development Administration not selected nor appointed by the Corporation or who refuses such appointment shall be paid the money value of his accumulated vacation and sick leave, and such retirement gratuity as may be due him under existing retirement laws. Any of the employees and laborers who do not qualify under any existing retirement law shall be paid one month salary for every year of service, payable in lump sum. For this purpose, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of Five million pesos (₱5,000,000.00) to provide for their separation gratuities, accumulated vacation and sick leaves and/or retirement payable and due them.

SECTION 46. Transfer of Appropriation, Power, Functions, etc. of the National Development Corporation. - Upon the effectivity of this Act, the management, authority, and supervision of all projects situated in Mindanao, Palawan and Sulu, whether finished or unfinished, belonging to the National Development Corporation, including its employees, balances of appropriations, funds, equipment, records and supplies, as well as all its assets and outstanding obligations, are hereby transferred to, assumed or absorbed by the Mindanao Development Corporation.

SECTION 47. Separability Clause. - The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable, and in the event any one or more of such provisions are held unconstitutional, they shall not affect the validity of other provisions.

SECTION 48. Laws Repealed. - All acts, charters, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 49. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in two national newspapers of general circulation..

Approved,