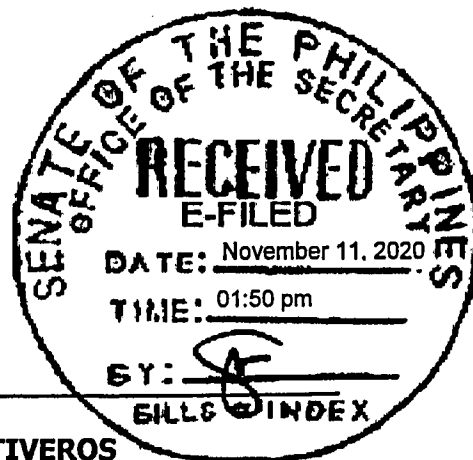


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

S.B. No. 1913



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION
MECHANISM TO ADDRESS THE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES OF THE
BANGSAMORO PEOPLE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, CREATING FOR THE
PURPOSE THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION
COMMISSION FOR THE BANGSAMORO AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution hereby declares that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. In fulfillment of this obligation, the State adopts generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land. The Philippines adheres to international human rights law and conventions, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (UNCAT). It also takes into account the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 16, 2005.

Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the "Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao" which was approved into law on July 27, 2020 mandates the enactment of "a transitional justice mechanism to address the legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people and the Indigenous peoples, such as historical injustices, human rights and marginalization through unjust dispossession of territorial and propriety rights and customary land tenure." The establishment of mechanisms for transitional justice is also mandated in the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro signed between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on March 27, 2014. The Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro's (FAB) Annex on Normalization specifies that the two parties "must work out a program for transitional justice to address the legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people, correct historical injustices, and address human rights violations and marginalization through land dispossession."

Following RA 11054, this bill takes into account the report of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) for the creation of a National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission on the Bangsamoro. The Commission shall implement the 'dealing with the past' framework – which includes ensuring the victims of the conflicts' right to know, right to justice, guarantee of non-recurrence, and right to reparation – that is sensitive to the Bangsamoro and Filipino context, informed by gender and cultural sensitivities, and includes a perspective for healing and reconciliation. This bill also integrates the recommendation to create a Civil Society Forum for Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in the Bangsamoro which will actively engage and work in partnership with the Commission to implement its mandate. The TJRC was the body created through the Annex on Normalization to "undertake a study and recommend to the Panels the appropriate mechanisms for transitional justice and reconciliation." Its report and recommendations were produced through a complex consultation process that included at least 3307 individuals (1867 men and 1349 women) in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi mainland and island, Zamboanga Peninsula, Central Mindanao, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos (SOCKSARGEN), and Indigenous Peoples' Areas.

Finally, this bill recognizes and protects the rights of non-Moro Indigenous Peoples within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, guarantees their inclusion in the transitional justice mechanisms, and ensures that their rights provided under the Constitution, national laws particularly RA 8371, otherwise known as "Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997" are not in any way diminished.

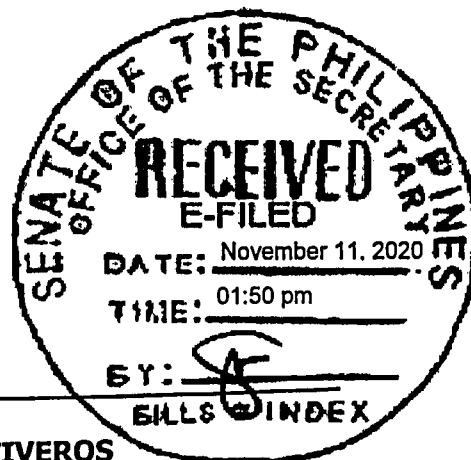
Consistent with the TJRC recommendations, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought to address the deepest pains and hurts of the Bangsamoro people, the indigenous peoples in the Bangsamoro Region in Muslim Mindanao, and of the Filipino society at large to "prevent a resurgence of armed conflict and to provide conditions for durable peace".


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Transitional Justice and
2 Reconciliation for the Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples In the Bangsamoro
3 Autonomous Region Act.”

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Section 11 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution of
5 the Republic of the Philippines declares that the State values the dignity of every human,
6 person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

7 By virtue of Section 2 of Article II of the Constitution adopting generally accepted
8 principles of international law as part of the law of the land, the Philippines adheres to
9 International human rights laws and conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human
10 Rights, Including the International Covenant On Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the
11 Convention Against Torture (CAT) and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or
12 Punishment which imposes on each State party the obligation to enact domestic
13 legislation to give effect to the rights recognized therein and to ensure that any person
14 whose rights or freedoms have been violated shall have an effective remedy, even if the
15 violation is committed by persons acting in an official capacity. In fact, the right to a
16 remedy is itself guaranteed under existing human rights treaties and/or customary
17 International law, being peremptory in character (jus cogens) and as such has been
18 recognized as non-derogable.

19 In accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro signed between
20 the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the Organic Law

1 for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao, It is hereby declared a
2 policy of the State to establish a Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Mechanism to
3 address the legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people and the Indigenous Peoples,
4 such as historical injustices, human rights violations, and marginalization through unjust
5 dispossession of territorial and propriety rights and customary land tenure.

6 Towards this end, the State shall:

- 7 (a) Take appropriate legislative and administrative and other appropriate
8 measures to prevent violations;
- 9 (b) Investigate violations effectively, promptly and thoroughly and impartially,
10 and where appropriate, take action against those allegedly responsible in
11 accordance with domestic and international law;
- 12 (c) Provide those who claim to be victims of a human rights or humanitarian
13 law violation with equal and effective access to justice, irrespective of who
14 may ultimately be the bearer of responsibility for the violation; and
- 15 (d) Provide effective remedies to victims, including reparation.
- 16 (e) Provide guarantees of non-repetition.

17 For this purpose, a National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the
18 Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be
19 established to formulate and implement inclusive and gender-sensitive plans and
20 programs to ensure the recognition, respect, protection, and promotion of these rights.

21 **Sec.3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

22 (a) *Armed conflict* - in the context of Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago is
23 non-international in character, in that it involves fighting between
24 governmental forces and nongovernmental armed groups or between
25 such groups alone.

26 (b) *Historical injustice* - includes acts committed and transactions entered into
27 by State and non-state actors with the Bangsamoro and other inhabitants
28 of the Mindanao and Sulu archipelago that have placed Bangsamoro
29 people and Indigenous Peoples at a political, economic, social and cultural
30 disadvantage and, while having occurred in the distant past, have not
31 been properly addressed, and continue to impact their lives today.

32 These acts have gender dimensions, which may include, but are not
33 limited to: disregard for established customs, women's economic
34 insecurity underpinned by patriarchy, and vulnerability to conflict-related
35 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) such as rape, sexual abuse and
36 trafficking.

- 1 (c) *Human rights* - are basic rights and freedoms inherent to all "without
2 distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political
3 or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status"
4 as well as non-distinction "of the political, jurisdictional or international
5 status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be
6 independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of
7 sovereignty. Human rights are inherent, indivisible, and inalienable. Every
8 human being has civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that
9 must be observed, guaranteed, and upheld at all times — whether in times
10 of peace and, even more so, during periods of war and armed conflict.
- 11 (d) *Land dispossession* – includes dispossession by ostensibly lawful means,
12 such as public land laws but may have been attended by force, duress,
13 intimidation, stealth, and deception;
- 14 (e) *Legitimate grievances* – refer to grievances that are rooted or grounded
15 on objective conditions and circumstances (i.e. objective grievances) like
16 landlessness, poverty, unemployment, widespread discrimination and
17 abuses, ethnic dominance, inter-group hatred, political/economic
18 exclusion or injustice. These grievances have gender dimensions, which
19 may include, but are not limited to differential impact of armed conflict on
20 men and women and heightened conflict-related experiences and impacts
21 as a result of traditional gender roles.
- 22 (f) *Marginalization* - refers to the political and economic disenfranchisement
23 that the Bangsamoro people, Indigenous Peoples and other inhabitants of
24 the Mindanao and Sulu archipelagos have suffered due to unjust national
25 laws, programs and policies, as well as government neglect and failure to
26 address destructive and exploitative actions of non-state actors;
- 27 (g) *Marginalization through land dispossession* - is understood as the impact
28 of unjust national laws, programs and policies on cultural identities and
29 ways of living, on political, social and economic conditions, on ancestral
30 domains, and on migration since the late colonial period until the present
31 time.
- 32 (h) *Mass Atrocity Crimes* - refers to three legally defined international crimes:
33 genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The definitions of the
34 crimes can be found in the 1948 Convention On the Prevention and
35 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and

1 Its 1977 Additional Protocols, and the 1998 Rome Statute of the
2 International Criminal Court, among other treaties.

3 (i) *Transitional justice* - means the full range of processes and mechanisms
4 associated with a society's attempts to come to terms with a legacy of
5 large-scale abuses, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and
6 achieve reconciliation which include criminal prosecutions, truth telling,
7 reparations program and institutional reform.

8 (j) *Victims of violations of international human rights law and international*
9 *humanitarian law* - are persons who individually or collectively suffered
10 harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic
11 loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts
12 or omissions that constitute gross violations of international human rights
13 law, or serious violations of international humanitarian law. Furthermore,
14 the term "victim" also includes the immediate family or dependants of the
15 direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist
16 victims in distress or to prevent victimization. A person shall be considered
17 a victim regardless of whether the perpetrator of the violation is identified,
18 apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted and regardless of the familial
19 relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

20 Sec. 4. *National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Program for the*
21 *Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples.* - There is hereby established a Transitional Justice
22 and Reconciliation Program for the Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples, herein referred
23 to as the "Program," which shall address legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people
24 and Indigenous Peoples, historical injustices and human rights violation, including
25 marginalization through land dispossession, with the following aims:

26 (a) Provide venues for the victims of the Bangsamoro conflict to be heard --
27 - particularly the most vulnerable such as women, children and
28 Indigenous Peoples --- and set up mechanisms for the investigation of
29 mass atrocity crimes and of serious human rights violations of
30 international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and
31 enable inquiries into specific events of the armed conflict;

32 (b) Contribute to the resolution of outstanding disputes in conflict- affected
33 areas in the Bangsamoro and address the legacy of land dispossession
34 with concrete measures to provide redress;

35 (c) Provide effective counteractions to impunity, by promoting accountability
36 and strengthening the rule of law in relation to past and present

1 atrocities, including crimes identified under international conventions to
2 which the Philippines is a signatory;

3 (d) Promote the healing and reconciliation among the Bangsamoro, the
4 Indigenous Peoples, other inhabitants in the Bangsamoro autonomous
5 region, and the Filipino society at large;

6 (e) Provide solid foundations and guarantees for non-recurrence; and

7 (f) Work with transitional justice institutions in the Bangsamoro such as the
8 Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission (BHRC) and/or a regional
9 transitional justice body in the documentation and investigation of
10 egregious violation of international human rights law and international
11 humanitarian law during the armed conflict.

12 **Sec.5. *National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the***
13 ***Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.*** – There is
14 hereby created a National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the
15 Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, hereinafter
16 referred to as the ‘Commission.’ The Commission shall design and formulate mechanisms
17 to implement the program and supervise such implementation. In formulating the
18 mechanisms, the Commission shall be guided by a gender-sensitive framework of dealing
19 with the past that respects, protects, and fulfills the right to truth, right to justice, and
20 right to reparation of the victims and ensure non-recurrence of any violation, and that
21 seeks to uphold the rule of law and end impunity, prevent violence and adhere
22 reconciliation, and realize conflict transformation.

23 For this purpose, the Commission shall adopt its own operational guidelines and rules of
24 procedure.

25 **Sec. 6. *Composition.*** – The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson and
26 four (4) regular Commissioners to be appointed by the President. The Chairperson shall
27 be responsible for the overall supervision of the Commission and each of the four (4)
28 Commissioners shall be responsible of the four (4) Sub- commissions under section 8 of
29 this act. There shall be gender balance in the composition of the Commission.

30 The Executive Director of the Commission who is and likewise appointed by the President
31 and two (2) representatives from civil society shall sit as non-voting members of the
32 Commission. The representatives of the civil society, who are selected by civil society,
33 shall have a wide network of organization and connection with grassroots conflict –
34 affected communities.

1 The Chairperson, the Commissioners and the non-voting members must be citizens of
2 the Philippines and of proven expertise on transitional justice, competence, integrity,
3 probity, and independence.

4 **Sec. 7. Powers and Functions.** – The Commission shall have the following powers
5 and functions:

6 (a) Conduct a nationwide information, education, and dissemination program
7 for the popularization of the rationale and principles of transitional justice
8 and reconciliation, as well as its implementing mechanisms;

9 (b) Investigate, study, recommend measures for the resolution of cases of
10 individuals and communities adversely affected by armed conflict, serious
11 violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and
12 outstanding land disputes in the conflict-affected areas, generally and as
13 provided in the mandates of the sub-commissions. Pursuant to this, the
14 Commission and its Sub-Commissions may take testimony or receive
15 evidence, administer oaths, summon witnesses, and require the
16 production of documents by subpoena duces tecum. Additionally, the
17 Commission and its Sub-Commissions shall practice victim-centered and
18 gender-sensitive approaches in investigating, studying, and
19 recommending measures to address mass atrocity crimes against the
20 Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples;

21 (c) Determine the factors that contribute to impunity in relation to past and
22 present atrocities, and recommend appropriate action to dismantle
23 impunity, promote accountability, and strengthen the rule of law;

24 (d) Coordinate with the public and private sectors in the formulation of short,
25 medium term, and long-term programs under a comprehensive approach
26 to transitional justice and reconciliation;

27 (e) Call upon other government agencies, including government owned and
28 controlled corporations and government financial institutions, for any
29 support it needs to carry out its mandate;

30 (f) Submit to the President recommendations for further action, including
31 proposed bills on matters requiring legislative action, when necessary, to
32 fully implement its proposals and programs;

33 (g) Using the whole of nation approach, establish an inter-governmental
34 relations with regional TJ mechanisms. It shall provide technical support
35 to the regions if necessary; and

1 (h) Perform other functions as may be necessary for the effective discharge
2 of its mandate.

3 The roles and function of the Commission shall be regularly reviewed and updated to
4 respond to the changing realities on the ground.

5 **Sec. 8. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** – Within three (3) months
6 from the convening of the Commission, the organizational structure and staffing pattern
7 shall be formulated and finalized in coordination with the Department of Budget and
8 Management. To assist the Commission the performance of its duties, four (4) Sub-
9 commissions are hereby created, which shall deal with specific aspects of transitional
10 justice for the Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples within the Bangsamoro Autonomous
11 Region:

12 (a) Sub-Commission on Bangsamoro Historical Memory, which shall have the
13 following specific functions:

- 14 a. To contribute to confidence building in communities affected by the
15 conflict through fact finding and truth seeking, while ensuring their
16 protection, safety and dignity. In particular, the sub-commission
17 shall listen to the testimony of in closed or public hearings, in order
18 to collect statements and evidence related to violent events. Due
19 sensitivity to accounts of women who have been victims of gender-
20 based and sexual violence shall be observed, specifically the
21 conduct of video recorded testimonies, in the presence of a gender
22 expert, to be presented in closed hearings.
- 23 b. To investigate serious violations of international human rights and
24 international humanitarian law, focusing, among others, on specific
25 emblematic cases of mass atrocity crimes, of land dispossession,
26 and of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence to
27 determine whether such forms of violence were practiced as a
28 deliberate strategy of war in the Bangsamoro conflict;
- 29 c. To publish series of reports on the result of its investigation in cases
30 of international human rights law and international humanitarian
31 law violations, inclusive of analyses (such as, but not limited to
32 gender analysis) of the findings and recommendations related to
33 individual, collective, and symbolic forms of reparations,
34 accountability of crimes committed, institutional reforms, and
35 reconciliation; and

1 d. To establish gender-disaggregated databases on violations of
2 International human rights and International humanitarian law in
3 the Bangsamoro from 1948 until the present, particularly a
4 database on conflict-related human casualties.

5 (b) Sub-Commission against Impunity and on the Promotion of Accountability
6 and Rule of Law in the Bangsamoro, which shall be responsible for the
7 following:

- 8 a. To identify, investigate, and recommend policies, operational
9 means, and concrete measures to address and overcome practices
10 of impunity at all levels, whether of a technical, political, or financial
11 nature and whether related to past or present atrocities;
- 12 b. To request disciplinary procedures against public officials who fail
13 to cooperate or who obstruct justice and the rule of law; and
- 14 c. To study and recommend for the creation of relevant justice
15 mechanisms such as, but not limited to, a special International
16 humanitarian law court, that shall particularly undertake judicial
17 cases on past and present atrocity crimes.

18 (c) Sub-Commission on Land Dispossession in the Bangsamoro, which is
19 authorized:

- 20 a. To address issues related to land dispossession, use and tenure in
21 the conflict-affected areas in the Bangsamoro by developing or
22 implementing a dispute resolution mechanism for land conflicts,
23 including Indigenous Peoples (IPs) claims on ancestral domains,
24 and for identifying lands where there are competing claimants;
- 25 b. To create a database on actual ownership in the Bangsamoro and
26 on land dispossession that may be used to support legal
27 proceedings and restitution or reparation programs, including
28 cadastral, geo-tagged, and community-based participatory
29 mapping sets; and
- 30 c. To support the overall redesign of land services in the Bangsamoro
31 by recommending changes in the legal framework and all
32 procedures related to land titling, registration, taxation, and
33 management, including the claims of Indigenous Peoples on
34 ancestral domains, for legislation.

35 (d) Sub-Commission on Bangsamoro Healing and Reconciliation, which is
36 empowered:

- 1 a. To identify and support traditional practices of reconciliation at the
2 community level;
- 3 b. To develop and promote a meaningful process for national
4 reconciliation with a view to encouraging cultural and attitudinal
5 change;
- 6 c. To support the other three (3) sub-commissions in the
7 implementation of their mandate by shaping and promoting a
8 reconciliatory vision for each of them; and
- 9 d. Ensure the meaningful participation of victims and/or their families,
10 including women and other vulnerable groups, in the proceedings
11 of the Commission and its Sub-commissions.

12 Each Sub-commission shall cooperate with relevant national, regional, and local
13 institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, in the exercise of its mandate.
14 Moreover, each sub-commission shall ensure the meaningful participation of women in
15 the processes that will be undertaken, taking into consideration their experiences relevant
16 to the objectives of transitional justice.

17 *Sec. 9. National Consultation Process.* – The appointment of members of the
18 Commission shall be made through broad, inclusive, transparent, and gender-fair national
19 public consultations.

20 For this purpose, the Office of the Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) shall propose
21 to the President a selection and appointment process for the members of the Commission.
22 This selection and appointment process shall include the appointment of a Selection
23 Committee composed of representatives of national, regional, and local sectoral
24 stakeholders. The Selection Committee, after its convention, shall select, from the pool
25 of nominees, the persons who shall be included in the short lists of nominees from which
26 the President shall appoint the members of the Commission. The Selection Committee
27 and the Commission shall ensure the inclusion of women in its membership,
28 corresponding to representatives of national, regional and local sectoral stakeholders.

29 The Commission, whenever it deems appropriate, shall likewise conduct national public
30 consultations in formulation of the implementing mechanisms of the Program.

31 *Sec. 10. Advisory Board.* – There is hereby an Advisory Board composed of
32 qualified individuals, including women, with proven expertise in the fields of transitional
33 justice and reconciliation, to be appointed by the President.

34 The Commission may likewise engage or contract the services of resource persons,
35 professionals and other personnel determined by it as necessary to carry out its mandate.

1 **Sec. 11. *Secretariat.*** – The Commission shall organize its Secretariat, headed by
2 the Executive Director, which shall provide administrative and technical support.

3 **Sec. 12. *Engagement with Civil Society.*** – The Commission shall actively engage
4 and work in partnership with civil society organizations. It shall create a Civil Society
5 Forum For Transitional Justice and Reconciliation for the Bangsamoro and Indigenous
6 Peoples in the Bangsamoro Region to provide venues for civil society to support the
7 Commission implement its mandate, monitor its work, and enhance the voices of victims
8 to ensure that their needs are articulated and addressed.

9 **Sec. 13. *Duration.*** – The Commission shall operate for a period of six (6) years
10 from the effectivity of this Act or upon completion of the purposes for which it was
11 created, whichever comes first. However, it may continue to operate for another three
12 (3) years upon the approval of the President.

13 **Sec. 14. *Appropriation.*** – For the initial operating expenses of the Commission to
14 carry out the mandate of this Act, the amount of One hundred million Pesos
15 (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the Contingent Fund of the Office of the
16 President on the year this Act is approved. Thereafter, it shall submit to the Department
17 of Budget and Management its proposed budget for inclusion in the General
18 Appropriations Act.

19 The Commission is likewise authorized to accept donations, contributions, grants,
20 bequests of gifts from domestic or foreign sources, for purposes relevant to its mandate
21 and functions, in accordance with applicable laws and rules and regulations subject to
22 government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

23 **Sec. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
24 approval of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations implementing
25 the provisions of this Act. The Implementing Rules and regulations issued pursuant to
26 this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers
27 of general circulation.

28 **Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations
29 inconsistent herewith are repealed or modified accordingly.

30 **Sec. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
31 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
32 remain in full force and effect.

33 **Sec. 18. *Saving Clause.*** – This law shall not in any manner diminish the rights and
34 benefits of Indigenous Peoples under the Philippine Constitution, international treaties
35 and conventions, national laws, particularly RA 8371, otherwise known as the "*Indigenous*
36 *Peoples' Rights Act of 1997*" and RA 11054, otherwise known as "*Organic Law For The*

1 *Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao*", and other laws pertaining to
2 Indigenous peoples in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

3 **Sec. 19. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
4 In a newspaper of general circulation or Official Gazette.

Approved,