



S E N A T E

S. No. 2507

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
WITH SENATORS ZUBIRI, VILLANUEVA, GATCHALIAN,
EJERCITO, REVILLA JR., LAPID, LEGARDA, DELA ROSA,
AND ANGARA AS AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND
REGION

*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
2 the “Negros Island Region Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared
4 the policy of the State to promote efficiency in the
5 government to enable it to pursue programs consistent
6 with national goals for accelerated social and economic
7 development.

1 Pursuant to this policy, the State shall promote
2 administrative decentralization to strengthen local
3 autonomy and accelerate the economic, cultural, and social
4 development of the region.

5 SEC. 3. *Creation.* – The Negros Island Region (NIR) is
6 hereby established which shall be composed of the
7 following provinces, including the cities, municipalities,
8 and barangays comprising the provinces:

9 (a) Negros Occidental including Bacolod City;

10 (b) Negros Oriental; and

11 (c) Siquijor

12 SEC. 4. *Negros Island Region Government Offices.* –
13 To ensure the effective delivery of public services to the
14 NIR, regional offices shall be established and designated in
15 the following manner:

16 (I) Negros Occidental

17 (a) Agriculture and Land-Related Cluster

18 (1) Department of Agriculture;

19 (2) Department of Environment and Natural

20 Resources;

1 (3) Department of Agrarian Reform; and
2 (4) Department of Human Settlements and Urban
3 Development.

4 (b) Peace and Order and Security Cluster

5 (1) Department of Justice;

6 (2) Department of the Interior and Local Government;

7 (3) Philippine National Police; and

8 (4) Department of National Defense.

9 (c) Governance Cluster

10 (1) Department of Budget and Management;

11 (2) Department of Finance;

12 (3) National Economic Development Authority;

13 (4) Department of Foreign Affairs;

14 (5) Commission on Audit; and

15 (6) Commission on Elections.

16 (II) Negros Oriental

17 (a) Human Development Cluster

18 (1) Department of Education;

19 (2) Department of Social Welfare and Development;

20 (3) Department of Health;

1 (4) Technical Education and Skills Development

2 Authority;

3 (5) Commission on Higher Education;

4 (6) Civil Service Commission;

5 (7) Philippine Statistics Authority; and

6 (8) Department of Labor and Employment.

7 (b) Infrastructure Cluster

8 (1) Department of Public Works and Highways;

9 (2) Department of Transportation;

10 (3) Department of Information and Communications

11 Technology; and

12 (4) Department of Energy.

13 (c) Industry and Labor Cluster

14 (1) Department of Trade and Industry;

15 (2) Department of Tourism;

16 (3) Department of Science and Technology; and

17 (4) DOF - Securities and Exchange Commission.

18 SEC. 5. *Creation of a Technical Working Group*

19 (*TWG*). – Upon the approval of this Act, a TWG shall be

20 constituted. This will be composed of the National

1 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the
2 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),
3 the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the
4 representative of the Office of the Governor of the
5 provinces, and the representatives from all elected
6 members of the House of Representatives of the provinces.

7 The TWG shall formulate the plan or roadmap to put
8 in place all institutional arrangements for the Negros
9 Island Region and arrange for the organizational
10 development requirements as well as other necessary
11 concerns for development planning, investment
12 programming, and public service provision. The DILG shall
13 serve as the secretariat of the TWG.

14 SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to
15 carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged
16 against the current year's appropriations of concerned
17 agencies. Thereafter, the amount needed for the
18 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
19 General Appropriations Act.

1 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* –
2 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
3 DILG, NEDA, and DBM, in consultation with the
4 provincial governments of Negros Occidental, Negros
5 Oriental, and Siquijor are mandated to promulgate the
6 IRR in relation to this Act.

7 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
8 Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or
9 provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be
10 in full force and effect.

11 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, issuances, rules
12 and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with
13 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
14 modified accordingly.

15 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
16 (15) days from its complete publication in the *Official*
17 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,