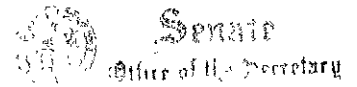



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



12 FEB -1 AM 50

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S. No. 3115

Introduced by **Sen. Aquilino “Koko” L. Pimentel III**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article X, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides for the creation of the autonomous regions of Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordilleras consisting of provinces, cities, municipalities and geographical areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures and other relevant characteristics within the framework of the Constitution, the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the country.

Fulfilling this constitutional mandate, Congress passed Republic Act 6734 creating the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).


In the case of the Cordilleras, Executive Order No. 220 organized the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) thereby mandating CAR to ensure that the region's economic growth strategy will result to improved quality of life and sustainable total human development of all Cordillerans.

Pursuant to the Regional Development Plan for 2011-2016 drafted by the National Economic Development Authority – Cordillera Administrative Region (NEDA-CAR), regional autonomy is seen as the most effective option to

provide CAR the needed solid foundation to pursue sustainable development as it hopes to address lingering issues on the management and use of its natural resources and how the region should benefit from it. Attaining regional autonomy in the Cordilleras will also bring to the national attention the benefits of promoting and accepting cultural diversity through the formulation of multi-cultural policies for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) as the traditional uniform application of national norms and standards do not apply well to the Cordilleras.


Towards this end, it is imperative and timely therefore, that Congress enacts an Organic Act for the creation of the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

With the foregoing considered, the approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.


AQUILINO "KOKO" L. PIMENTEL III

12 FEB -1 11:50

SENATE
S. No. 3115

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Sen. Aquilino "Koko" L. Pimentel III**

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CORDILLERA AUTONOMOUS REGION

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

PREAMBLE

We, the Cordillerans, imploring the Aid of Divine Providence, exercising our fundamental and Constitutional right to self-determination, faithful to the pursuit of our forebears for the defense, protection, conservation and development of our patrimony and cultural heritage, in order to secure for ourselves and our posterity a region of peace and prosperity founded on truth, freedom, justice, love and human solidarity through a Regional Autonomous Government that shall ensure our human rights, our human development, and our active participation as citizens in the affairs of a united Philippine State, do proclaim this Charter of the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

ARTICLE I

THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, TERRITORY AND PEOPLE

Section 1. There is hereby established an autonomous region in the Cordilleras to be known as the "Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR)".

Section 2. The area of the Cordillera Autonomous Region shall consist of the cities and provinces that shall vote favorably in the plebiscite called for the ratification of this Organic Act pursuant to Section 18, Article X of the Constitution.

Section 3. The term Cordilleran shall apply to all citizens of the Philippines who are domiciled within the territory of the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

1 **ARTICLE II**

2 **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES**

3
4 **Section 4.** The Cordillera Autonomous Region is an
5 integral and inseparable territorial and political subdivision
6 of the Philippines.

7 The Cordillerans, as citizens of the Philippines, shall
8 uphold the Constitution as the fundamental law of the land
9 and unequivocally owe allegiance and fidelity to the
10 Republic.

11 National government officials and employees, agencies
12 or instrumentalities are bound by the Constitution and
13 national laws, to recognize and respect the rights of the
14 Cordillerans as citizens of the Philippines, and the
15 autonomy of the region.

16
17 **Section 5.** The success of the Cordillera Autonomous
18 Region is lodged both on the determination of its people to
19 pursue and maintain regional autonomy and the genuine
20 and complete devolution of powers and functions by the
21 national government, including assets, finances, and other
22 resources, to the regional autonomous government.

23 (a) The national government shall provide financial
24 support and assistance to the Cordillera Autonomous
25 Region by appropriating such sums as may be
26 necessary to accelerate the development of the
27 autonomous region, on top of and aside from the
28 Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) provided therewith
29 and the Local Government Units as well as the
30 allocations already provided through the regional line
31 agencies.

32 (b) The national government shall consult and
33 coordinate with the autonomous Regional Government
34 before programs and projects are undertaken in the
35 autonomous region.

36 **Section 6.** The local government units shall continue to be
37 independent from each other, enjoy autonomy and shall
38 continue to exercise the powers granted them under the
39 Local Government Code and other existing laws, but may
40 enter into joint ventures beneficial to them.

1

2 **Section 7.**The Regional Government and its constituent
3 units shall promote partnership to accelerate regional
4 development.

5

6 **Section 8.** The Cordillerans shall uphold the State
7 principle that all government authority emanates from the
8 people. Thus, Cordillerans anchor their Identity on their
9 common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage,
10 economic and social structures, and other relevant
11 characteristics particular to themselves as Cordillerans.
12 Development shall take into consideration the local culture
13 (customs, traditions and technologies) as well as
14 adaptation to recent cultural influences which may be
15 beneficial to them.

16 Wherever applicable, and whenever it is useful,
17 without contravening morals and public policies, local
18 indigenous customary laws, traditions, practices and
19 institutions are hereby recognized and may be availed of by
20 appropriate parties.

21

22 **Section 9.** The protection, dynamic conservation,
23 sustainable management and utilization of natural
24 resources and environment of the region and provision for
25 basic human needs and decent standard of living for its
26 people shall be an essential dimension of regional
27 development.

28 (a) The exploration, development and utilization of
29 the region's natural resources shall be consistent with
30 the principles of sustainable development management
31 systems and practices.

32 (b) The Cordillerans shall have prior and preferential
33 right to the natural, material, and fiscal resources of
34 the region.

35 (c) Following the Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA)
36 law, the Regional Government shall ensure for the
37 Cordillerans the right to secure for themselves their
38 ancestral lands and domains, develop their economy,
39 protect and promote their cultural heritage, their right
40 to equitable shares and benefits from the use and
41 development of the natural resources within their
42 domains, and to establish a system of self-

1 governancethat will promote both their common good
2 and development. Likewise, the Cordillera Autonomous
3 Region shall recognize and adopt the use of
4 environment-friendly and sustainable indigenous
5 knowledge systems and practices in the management
6 of natural resources.

7 (d) The Cordillera Autonomous Region shall adopt a
8 balanced, sustainable economic growth and
9 development supported by appropriate researches for
10 the benefit and advantage of the Cordillerans.

11
12 **Section 10.** The Cordillera Autonomous Region shall
13 pursue a policy of coordination and cooperation, especially
14 its neighbouring Northern Luzon Regions, in its
15 development efforts taking into account the conservation
16 and protection of the natural environment as an essential
17 dimension of regional development. The Regional
18 Government shall consider as paramount ecological
19 balance, mutual development interests, a balanced and
20 sustainable economic growth, and the peoples' right to self-
21 determination in cooperative economic development
22 undertakings with the other regions.

23
24 **Section 11.** The common good, general welfare and social
25 justice require equal access to resources, employment, and
26 services by all Cordillerans, ethnic, social, and economic
27 sectors and the adoption of measures for the democratic
28 sharing of wealth, power and opportunities without
29 distinction based on ethnic origin, gender, language,
30 political conviction, economic and social status or religious
31 belief. The Regional Government shall:

32 (a) Adopt measures to alleviate the people from
33 poverty, generate employment and develop a self-
34 reliant economy.

35 (b) Adopt policies necessary to minimize the
36 disparities between the rich and the poor among rural
37 and urban areas and among territorial subdivisions, to
38 ensure access to essential services, employment and
39 other opportunities and sharing of wealth and
40 resources and for these purposes, it shall formulate
41 programs for the optimal and judicious use and
42 development of the resources within the region's
43 component provinces and cities and implement these

1 after due consultation in accordance with applicable
2 national laws and this Organic Act;

3 (c) Ensure consumer protection.

4 (d) Promote and harmonize the interests of both labor
5 and capital, while protecting their respective right.

6 (e) Ensure that women and men enjoy equality before
7 the law, and shall, in particular, prevent gender
8 discrimination in the practice of profession,
9 employment opportunities or promotion.

10

11 **Section 12.** The Cordillerans are entitled to active, free
12 and meaningful participation in, contribution to, and
13 enjoyment of development in which human rights and
14 fundamental freedoms can be realized.

15 It is the primary duty of the Regional Government to
16 promote, ensure and protect the basic individual and
17 collective rights of its constituents and the general welfare
18 of all people as enshrined in the Constitution and this
19 Organic Act.

20 (a) Cordillerans have the right, especially through
21 their community and organizations, such as but not
22 limited to movements and traditional and customary
23 aggrupations, to participate and be equitably
24 represented at appropriate levels of social, economic,
25 and political decision-making and be consulted as
26 stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of
27 local, regional, and national priorities, plans, programs
28 and projects that affect the Cordilleran's general
29 welfare, and to monitor their successful
30 implementation.

31 (b) The Regional Government shall recognize the role
32 of private sector organizations, such as, but not
33 limited to movements and traditional and customary
34 aggrupations, to initiate the monitoring and
35 investigation of fund utilization, work contracts and
36 project implementation, and the filing of charges for
37 irregularities.

38 (c) The Regional Government shall pursue a policy of
39 holding prior consultation or public hearings on
40 matters of national and regional priorities, plans and
41 programs as well as transparency in the

1 implementation of projects affecting the constituents of
2 the local government units concerned.

- 3 (d) The Regional Government shall encourage
4 participation by ensuring that the people have access
5 to development processes, institutions, information
6 and redress or complaint mechanisms. The Regional
7 Government shall give preference to strategies for
8 empowerment for its people to have the power,
9 capacities and access needed to improve their lives,
10 their communities and direct their own destinies.

11
12 **Section 13.** The Cordillera Autonomous Region recognizes
13 that the home is the cradle of the holistic development of
14 and the primary agent of education for the Cordillera
15 youth. The Regional Government shall:

- 16 (a) Promote family-centered values that nurture the
17 development of the young;
18 (b) Guarantee the youth's effective participation and
19 representation in public affairs;
20 (c) Enact laws and adopt measures necessary to
21 protect children against all forms of neglect, cruelty,
22 and exploitation harmful to their moral, physical, or
23 mental health, in all circumstances and settings.

24
25 **Section 14.** The Cordillera Autonomous Region shall
26 establish, within the framework of the national system of
27 education as defined in the Constitution and national laws,
28 accessible and affordable educational system, both formal
29 and non-formal, that:

- 30 (a) Inculcates respect for human rights and the
31 dignity of work.
32 (b) Respects and promotes indigenous culture and
33 practices.
34 (c) Encourages use of indigenous languages and
35 methods of education.
36 (d) Encourages creativity and critical thinking.
37 (e) Promotes science and appropriate technology.
38 (f) Responds to the needs of Cordillera communities.

1 **Section 15.** State colleges and universities in the region
2 shall provide relevant researches and assistance to the
3 development of the region.

4
5 **Section 16.** Consistent with the Constitution and national
6 laws, the Regional Government shall:

7 (a) Provide incentives to investors, corporations and
8 businesses but shall adopt measures to prevent the
9 abuse of natural and human resources;

10 (b) Ensure that such activities contribute to the
11 development of wealth and equitable sharing of
12 revenues with the host communities and local
13 government units;

14 (c) Review all forms of foreign aid, loans and special
15 projects to safeguard autonomy and enhance
16 development;

17 (d) Set rules and guidelines for energy production,
18 public transportation and communication;

19 (e) Prohibit the development, storage, use or
20 transport of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons
21 within the region.

22
23 **Section 17.** The Cordillerans aspire for peace founded on
24 democracy, justice, righteousness, and respect to the
25 dignity of human life. The promotion of peace shall include
26 the renunciation of all forms of lawlessness, violence,
27 cruelty, vengeance, and discrimination and the application
28 of customary system and indigenous practices, cultural
29 traditions that promote peace, conflict avoidance and
30 resolution.

31
32 **Section 18.** Civilian authority shall remain supreme at all
33 times for the protection of the freedom of the people and for
34 the promotion of their safety and welfare.

35
36 **Section 19.** The right of Indigenous Peoples to use their
37 own commonly accepted justice systems, conflict resolution
38 institutions, peace-building processes or mechanisms and
39 other customary laws and practices, within their respective
40 jurisdictions, shall be respected.

1 Except under a state of emergency, no active military
2 personnel shall be appointed or designated to any public
3 position which is civilian in character, including
4 government-owned or controlled corporations or any of
5 their subsidiaries under control, supervision and
6 management of the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

7
8 **Section 20.** In the administration of the affairs of the
9 Cordillera Autonomous Region, the Regional Government
10 shall, at all times, adopt and espouse the principles of
11 integrity, transparency, accountability and democracy:

12 (a) Decision-making and all transactions involving
13 public interest shall be subject to full disclosure at
14 every stage, to foster confidence in the integrity and
15 honesty of the leadership, except those affecting
16 national and regional security;

17 (b) The responsible use of power by the leadership
18 and the institutions of the Regional Government for
19 the advancement of the general welfare requires that
20 those who hold positions of public trust shall, at all
21 times, account for their performance to the public; and

22 (c) Effective accountability requires appropriate
23 external feedback and should be linked to appropriate
24 incentive and penalty system.

25
26 **Section 21.** The Regional Government shall institute
27 measures to promote courtesy, impartiality and integrity in
28 public service and to eradicate nepotism, favoritism, graft
29 and corruption, red tape and waste.

30
31 **Section 22.** The Regional Government shall take
32 measures to prevent torture, other cruel, inhuman, and
33 degrading treatment or punishment, and illegal detention
34 and extra-judicial executions.

35
36 **Section 23.** Subject to the Constitution and national
37 policies, the Regional Government shall pursue
38 reconciliation efforts and promote peace and
39 demilitarization in the region.

1 **ARTICLE III**

2 **THE CORDILLERA AUTONOMOUS REGION**

3
4 **Section 24.** The territorial and political subdivisions of the
5 Cordillera Autonomous Region are the provinces, cities,
6 municipalities and barangays where applicable.

7
8 **Section 25.** The Regional Government shall exercise
9 powers and functions necessary for the proper governance
10 and development of the region consistent with the declared
11 constitutional policy on local autonomy and
12 decentralization: Provided, that nothing in this Act shall be
13 construed as to authorize the diminution of the powers,
14 functions, and benefits already enjoyed by local
15 government units, regional line agencies, and offices.

16 The Regional Government shall undertake measures to
17 strengthen the autonomy of the component government
18 units and to accelerate the economic and social growth and
19 development of the units in the region.

20
21 **Section 26.** The President of the Philippines shall exercise
22 general supervision over the regional autonomous
23 government and its local government units through the
24 Regional Governor to ensure that laws are faithfully
25 executed within the scope of their prescribed powers and
26 functions.

27
28 **Section 27.** The Regional Government may exercise the
29 power of eminent domain.

30
31 **Section 28.** The Cordillera autonomous region is a
32 corporate entity with jurisdiction in all matters devolved to
33 it by the Constitution and this Organic Act as herein
34 enumerated:

- 35 (a) Administrative organization.
36 (b) Creation of sources of revenues.
37 (c) Ancestral domain, natural resources and
38 environment.
39 (d) Personal, family and property relations.

- 1 (e) Regional urban and rural planning and
2 development.
- 3 (f) Economic, social and tourism development.
- 4 (g) Educational policies.
- 5 (h) Preservation, safeguarding and development of the
6 cultural heritage.
- 7 (i) Patents, trademark, trade names, and copyrights.
- 8 (j) Such other matters as may be authorized by law
9 for the promotion of the general welfare of the people
10 of the region, except:
- 11 1. Foreign affairs
 - 12 2. National defense and security
 - 13 3. Postal service
 - 14 4. Coinage, and fiscal and monetary policies
 - 15 5. Administration of justice
 - 16 6. Quarantine
 - 17 7. Customs and tariff
 - 18 8. Citizenship
 - 19 9. Naturalization, immigration and deportation
 - 20 10. General auditing, civil service and elections
 - 21 11. Foreign trade
 - 22 12. Statistical and civil registration services
- 23

24 **ARTICLE III-A**

25 **THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS** 26 **GOVERNMENT WITH THE REGIONAL LINE AGENCIES**

27

28 **Section 29.** Regional line agencies and offices in the
29 Cordillera Autonomous Region shall continue to exist,
30 retain their mandated authorities without diminution and
31 perform their functions corresponding to the following
32 conditions:

- 33 (a) Regional Line Agencies and offices shall, in
34 addition to their regular tasks and functions,
35 perform those devolved by the Constitution to
36 autonomous regions as enumerated in Section 28 of
37 this Organic Act;

- 1 (b) The Regional Governor shall exercise control and
2 supervision over regional line agencies and offices in
3 the region, and shall represent the same;
- 4 (c) Regional line agency officials and employees shall
5 continue to be nationally paid. There shall be no
6 diminution of their compensation and other benefits
7 due its officials and employees;
- 8 (d) Existing assets and properties of the regional line
9 agencies and offices shall remain under their
10 custody and accountability.

11

12 **Section 30.** Civil Service officials and employees of the
13 regional line agencies and offices in the region shall not be
14 laid off, dismissed or removed as a result of any
15 reorganization attendant to the establishment of the
16 Cordillera Autonomous Region, except for a just cause and
17 after due process.

18

19 **Section 31.** Civil service officials and employees of the
20 regional autonomous government and the regional line
21 agencies in the autonomous region shall be hired in
22 accordance with appropriate Civil Service rules and
23 regulations, but preference shall be accorded to qualified
24 Cordillerans.

25

26 **Section 32.** Filling up of vacant Regional Director and
27 Assistant Regional Director positions of regional line
28 agencies and offices in the autonomous region shall follow
29 the existing screening procedure of the concerned agency
30 or office and the guidelines provided by the Career
31 Executive Service Board (CESB). The Regional Governor
32 shall recommend a minimum of three (3) applicants from
33 those who applied and who were screened from whom the
34 President shall select and appoint. Regional Directors
35 posted in the autonomous region shall be as equally
36 qualified like those assigned in other regions for promotion
37 to higher positions in the various departments, line
38 agencies and offices of the national government.

39

40 **Section 33.** Regional line agencies and offices shall
41 prepare their respective budgets separate and distinct from
42 the budget of the Regional Government. Their budgets

1 shall however be attached and form part of the budget of
2 the Regional Government when presented to Congress to
3 ensure that plans and priorities of the autonomous region
4 are harmonized and properly considered in the budgeting
5 processes.

6

7 **Section 34.** The autonomous region may, upon authority
8 of the Regional Assembly, avail of Official Development
9 Assistance (ODA)-funded projects and other foreign
10 financial grants or donations and shall undertake these
11 projects through the regional line agencies, government-
12 owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), state colleges
13 and universities, local government units or whichever is
14 deemed appropriate.

15

16 **Section 35.** Government Owned and Controlled
17 Corporations (GOCCs) shall continue to be governed by
18 their respective charters and other pertinent laws.

19

20 **Section 36.** The Government Service Insurance System
21 (GSIS), the Social Security System (SSS), the
22 Pagtutulungan-Ikaw, *Bangko Industriya't Gobyerno*
23 (PAGIBIG) and other funds of similar trust or fiduciary
24 nature shall be exempted from the coverage of this Organic
25 Act.

26

27

ARTICLE III-B

28

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS 29 GOVERNMENT 30 WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

31

32 **Section 37.** The local government units shall have the
33 same set of local officials and employees and shall enjoy
34 autonomy and continue to exercise the powers granted
35 them under the Local Government Code and other existing
36 laws. Nothing herein provided shall be construed in any
37 manner as to diminish the powers and functions as well as
38 benefits and privileges already being enjoyed by the local
39 government units. The Local Government Code shall apply
40 to all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays in the
41 autonomous region.

1 **Section 38.** Consistent with the basic policy on local
2 autonomy, the President, through the Regional Governor
3 shall exercise direct supervision over local government
4 units in the autonomous region to ensure that their acts
5 are within the scope of their prescribed powers and
6 functions.

7
8 **Section 39.** Revenues, taxes, fees and charges generated
9 by the local government units and the regional
10 autonomous government from their respective local tax
11 ordinances shall exclusively accrue to them.

12
13 **Section 40.** The local government units in the
14 autonomous region, including the Regional Government,
15 shall have a just share in the national taxes which shall be
16 automatically released to them.

17
18 **Section 41.** The local government units in the
19 autonomous region including the Regional Government
20 unit shall be entitled to an equitable share in the proceeds
21 of the utilization and development of the national wealth
22 within their respective areas, in the manner provided by
23 law and this Organic Act. Provided, that the Regional
24 Government unit shall have a share of forty percent (40%)
25 taken from the percentage share of the National
26 Government from the utilization of national wealth within
27 the autonomous region.

28
29 **Section 42.** Any chartered city within the autonomous
30 region shall be governed primarily by its charter.

31
32 **Section 43.** Special metropolitan political subdivisions
33 may, by law, be created by the Regional Assembly, subject
34 to a plebiscite. The component cities and municipalities
35 shall retain their basic autonomy and shall be entitled to
36 their own local executive and legislative bodies. The
37 jurisdiction of the metropolitan authority that will thereby
38 be created shall be limited to basic services requiring
39 coordination.

1 **Section 44.** The local government units in the
2 autonomous region may group themselves, consolidate or
3 coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for
4 purposes commonly beneficial to them in accordance with
5 law.

6
7 **ARTICLE IV**

8 **ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS**
9 **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT – THEIR QUALIFICATIONS,**
10 **TERMS OF OFFICE, VACANCIES AND SUCCESSION**

11
12 **Section 45.** The elective officials of the Cordillera
13 Autonomous Region are the (a) Regional Governor, (b)
14 Regional Vice-Governor, and (c) Members of the Regional
15 Assembly.

16
17 **Section 46.** Qualifications.

18 (a) Candidates for Regional Governor and Vice-
19 Governor positions must be a citizen of the Philippines
20 and a Cordilleran, at least twenty-five (25) years of age
21 on election day, a registered voter in the region and
22 domiciled thereof for a period of five (5) years
23 immediately preceding the day of election, able to read
24 and write Filipino or any other local language or
25 dialect in the region.

26 (b) Candidates for the position of Member of the
27 Regional Assembly must be a citizen of the Philippines
28 and a Cordilleran, at least twenty-five (25) years of age
29 on election day, a registered voter in the region and
30 domiciled thereof for a period of two (2) years
31 immediately preceding the day of election, able to read
32 and write Filipino or any other local language or
33 dialect in the region.

34
35 **Section 47.** Disqualifications. In addition to the
36 disqualifications provided under Book I, Title Two, Chapter
37 1, Section 40 of the Local Government Code, candidates for
38 Regional Governor, Vice-Governor and members of the
39 Regional Assembly must not be related to the incumbent
40 Regional Governor within the 4th degree of consanguinity
41 or affinity.

1 **Section 48.** Manner of Election.

2 (a) The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor shall be
3 elected at large by direct vote of the registered voters of
4 the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

5 (b) Each province and city shall elect their own
6 representatives to the Regional Assembly. Any
7 chartered city in the autonomous region is entitled to
8 two (2) representatives to the Regional Assembly. Any
9 component city shall be entitled to one (1)
10 representative. Each province shall be entitled to a
11 maximum of two (2) representatives, one (1) per
12 district. Provided, that any political subdivision
13 created after the effectivity of this Organic Act shall be
14 entitled to representation to the Regional Assembly as
15 may be provided by law.

16 (c) Unless otherwise provided, the regular election of
17 the Regional Governor, Vice-Governor, and members of
18 the Regional Assembly shall be held on the second
19 Monday of May.

20
21 **Section 49.** Term of Office

22 (a) The term of office of all elective regional officials
23 elected after the effectivity of this Organic Act shall be
24 three (3) years which shall begin at noon on the
25 thirtieth (30th) day of June next following the day of
26 election and shall end at noon of the same date three
27 (3) years thereafter. No Regional Governor, Vice-
28 Governor, or Member of the Regional Assembly shall
29 serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

30 (b) Voluntary renunciation of, or removal from, office
31 for any length of time shall not be considered as an
32 interruption in the continuity of the service for the full
33 term for which officials were elected.

34
35 **Section 50.** Oath of Office. The Regional Governor, Vice-
36 Governor and Members of the Regional Assembly on
37 assuming office shall take the following oath or affirmation:

38 *"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully*
39 *and conscientiously fulfill my duties as*
40 *Governor/Vice-Governor/Member of the Regional*
41 *Assembly of the Cordillera Autonomous Region,*
42 *preserve and defend the Constitution of the*

1 *Republic of the Philippines and the Organic Act of*
2 *the Cordillera Autonomous Region, execute these*
3 *laws, do justice to all and consecrate myself to the*
4 *service of the nation and the Cordillera*
5 *Autonomous Region. So help me God.” (In case of*
6 *affirmation, the last sentence will be omitted.)*

7 **Section 51.** Prohibition

8 (a) The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor shall
9 not, during their tenure, engage in the practice of any
10 profession or hold any other office or employment,
11 except as otherwise provided in this Act.

12 (b) The spouse and other relatives by consanguinity or
13 affinity within the fourth civil degree of the Regional
14 Governor and the Regional Vice-Governor shall not,
15 during their tenure, be appointed officers or employees
16 of the Regional Government, except as members of
17 their confidential staff.

18 (c) No members of the Regional Assembly may hold
19 any other office or employment in the government or
20 any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof,
21 including government-owned or controlled
22 corporations, or their subsidiaries, during their term
23 without forfeiting their seat. Neither shall he/she be
24 appointed to any office which has been created or the
25 emoluments whereof increased by the Regional
26 Assembly during the term for which he/she was
27 elected.

28 (d) The Regional Governor, and Regional Vice-
29 Governor, and members of the Regional Assembly
30 shall not personally appear as counsel before any
31 court of justice or before the Electoral Commission or
32 quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies.

33 (e) The Regional Governor, Regional Vice-Governor,
34 and members of the Regional Assembly shall not
35 participate directly or indirectly in any contract with or
36 in any franchise or special privilege granted by the
37 Regional Government or any subdivision, agency or
38 instrumentality thereof, including any government-
39 owned or-controlled corporations or in any of their
40 subsidiaries. They shall not intervene in any matter
41 before any office of the Cordillera Autonomous Region

1 for their pecuniary benefit or where they may be called
2 upon to act on account of their office.

3

4 **Section 52.** Vacancies and Succession

5 (a) In the event that the position of the Regional
6 Governor becomes permanently vacant, the Regional
7 Vice-Governor shall automatically become the Regional
8 Governor.

9 (b) If the position of the Regional Vice-Governor
10 becomes permanently vacant, the member of the
11 assembly garnering the highest percentage of votes in
12 the district represented shall become the vice-governor
13 or in case of his/her permanent disability, the next
14 higher shall assume said position.

15 (c) In case of permanent vacancy in the Regional
16 Assembly occurring not less than (1) year before the
17 expiration of the term of office, a special election in
18 which the concerned elective official was elected shall
19 be called to fill the vacancy: Provided, that the member
20 elected shall serve only for the unexpired term.

21 (d) In case of a permanent vacancy in the assembly
22 where automatic succession does not apply, the
23 Regional Governor shall appoint to the position so
24 vacated the nominee of the political party to which the
25 member who caused the vacancy belonged at the time
26 of his election. Provided, however, that the appointee
27 has all the qualifications required by this Organic Act
28 of a member of the Regional Assembly and none of the
29 disqualifications provided for in other laws, and:
30 Provided, further, that he/she comes from the same
31 district represented by the member who caused the
32 vacancy.

33 (e) For purposes of this article, a permanent vacancy
34 arises when the incumbent elective official concerned
35 dies, voluntarily resigns, is removed from office, fills
36 up a higher vacant office, refuses to assume office,
37 fails to qualify, or is otherwise permanently
38 incapacitated to exercise the powers and discharge the
39 functions of his office.

1 **Section 53.** Temporary Vacancies

2 (a) When the Regional Governor is temporarily
3 incapacitated to perform his duties for physical or
4 legal reasons such as, but not limited to, leave of
5 absence, travel abroad, and suspension from office,
6 the regional vice governor shall automatically exercise
7 the powers and perform the duties and functions of
8 the former except the power to appoint, suspend or
9 dismiss employees which can only be exercised if the
10 period of temporary incapacity exceeds thirty (30)
11 working days.

12 (b) Said temporary incapacity shall terminate upon
13 submission to the Regional Assembly of a written
14 declaration by the Regional Governor that he has
15 reported back to office. In cases where the temporary
16 incapacity is due to legal causes, the regional official
17 concerned shall also submit necessary documents
18 showing that said legal causes no longer exist.

19 (c) When the incumbent Regional Governor is
20 traveling within the country but outside his territorial
21 jurisdiction for a period not exceeding three (3)
22 consecutive days, he may designate in writing, the
23 officer-in-charge of the said office. Such authorization
24 shall specify the powers and functions that the
25 regional official concerned shall exercise except the
26 power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees.

27 (d) In the event, however, that the Regional Governor
28 concerned fails or refuses to issue such authorization,
29 the Regional Vice-Governor shall have the right to
30 assume the powers, duties and functions of the said
31 office on the fourth (4th) day of absence of the Regional
32 Governor, subject to the limitations provided in
33 subsection c, hereof.

34 (e) Except as provided above, the Regional Governor
35 shall in no case authorize any regional official to
36 assume the powers, duties and functions of the office,
37 other than the Regional Vice-Governor or the highest
38 ranking Member of the Regional Assembly, as the case
39 may be.

40

41 **Section 54.** Approval of Leaves of Absence. Leaves of
42 absence of elective officials of the Cordillera Autonomous
43 Region shall be approved as follows:

1 (a) Leaves of absence of regional officials, provincial
2 governor, mayor of a highly urbanized city or an
3 independent component city shall be approved by the
4 Regional Governor or his duly authorized
5 representative;

6 (b) Applications for leaves of absence of other officials
7 and employees other than those enumerated above
8 shall follow those stipulated in the Local Government
9 Code;

10 (c) Application for leave of the Regional Governor
11 shall be approved by the President

12
13 **Section 55.** Compensation.

14 (a) Unless otherwise provided by law or regional
15 ordinance, the Regional Governor and Regional Vice-
16 Governor shall receive an annual salary equivalent to
17 that of a department secretary and undersecretary,
18 respectively, of the national government, which shall
19 not be decreased during their tenure. No increase in
20 the salary of the Regional Governor and Regional Vice-
21 Governor shall take effect until after the expiration of
22 the term of the Regional Governor and Regional Vice-
23 Governor approving the same.

24 (b) Unless otherwise provided by a regional
25 ordinance, a member of the Regional Assembly shall
26 receive an annual salary not lower than that of an
27 assistant secretary of the national government. No
28 increase in salary provided for by ordinance shall take
29 effect until after the expiration of the term of office of
30 all members of the Regional Assembly approving the
31 same.

32 (c) They shall not receive during their tenure any
33 other emoluments from the government or any other
34 sources.

35
36 **Section 56.** Disclosure. All regional officials shall, upon
37 their assumption of office, make a full disclosure of their
38 financial and business interests, including those of their
39 spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years
40 of age living in their households. Members of the Regional
41 Assembly shall notify the Regional Assembly of any
42 potential conflict of interest that may arise from the filing of

1 measures of which they are authors. Any member found
2 guilty of non-disclosure as required under this section may
3 be expelled by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members
4 of the Regional Assembly, without prejudice to other
5 liabilities under pertinent laws.

6 7 **ARTICLE V**

8 **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

9
10 **Section 57.** The executive power in the region shall be
11 vested in a Regional Governor. He shall exercise such
12 powers and perform such duties and functions as provided
13 by this Organic Act and other laws.

14
15 **Section 58.** As chief executive of the Regional
16 Government, the Regional Governor shall exercise control
17 and supervision over all programs, projects, services and
18 activities of the Regional Government, the regional line
19 agencies and offices, and the local government units within
20 the autonomous region.

21
22 **Section 59.** The Regional Governor shall represent the
23 Cordillera Autonomous Region, including the Regional
24 Government, the regional line agencies and offices, and the
25 local government units within the autonomous region in
26 Cabinet meetings called by the President.

27
28 **Section 60.** The Regional Governor shall address the
29 Regional Assembly at the opening of its regular sessions.
30 He/she may also appear before it at any time.

31
32 **Section 61.** The Regional Governor shall submit to the
33 Regional Assembly within thirty (30) days from the opening
34 of every regular session, as the basis of the regional
35 appropriations bill, budget of expenditures and sources of
36 financing, including receipts from existing and proposed
37 revenue measures.

1 **Section 62.** The Regional Governor and the different
2 regional departments shall have sufficient administrative
3 and support staff to efficiently and effectively carry out
4 their mandates and the purposes of the regional
5 government.

6
7 **Section 63.** There shall be regional executive assistants,
8 equivalent in rank and salary grade level to Assistant
9 Regional Directors of national government departments,
10 who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor and shall
11 hold office and serve at his discretion. Regional Executive
12 Assistants shall coordinate and harmonize the functions of
13 the various regional line agencies. Provided, that no more
14 than two (2) regional executive assistants shall come from
15 one (1) province or city within the region. Provided further,
16 that the regional executive assistant posts shall in no way
17 diminish the functions and resources of the different line
18 agencies.

19
20 **Section 64.** The regional autonomous government shall
21 have the following mandatory offices: Office of the Regional
22 Executive Secretary, Office of the Regional Accountant,
23 Office of the Regional Administrator, Office of the Regional
24 Legal Officer, Office of the Regional General Services
25 Officer, Office of the Regional Engineer, Office of the
26 Regional Information Officer, Office of the Secretary to the
27 Regional Assembly, Office of the Regional Treasurer. In
28 addition thereto, the Regional Governor may, subject to the
29 approval of the Regional Assembly and availability of funds,
30 create other offices deemed necessary.

31
32 The Regional Executive Secretary and the heads of the
33 various regional offices and employees under the executive
34 department shall be appointed by the Regional Governor.
35 With the exception of the former, the appointment of the
36 heads of regional offices requires the concurrence of the
37 majority of the members of the Regional Assembly and
38 compliance to civil service law, rules and regulations and
39 this Organic Act. The Regional Assembly shall act on said
40 appointment within fifteen (15) days from the date of
41 submission otherwise the same shall be deemed confirmed.

42
43 The rank and salary grade level of the heads of the
44 different regional departments shall be equivalent to the
45 regional directors of regional line agencies. They shall

1 receive compensation, allowances and other emoluments
2 and benefits allowed by law or ordinance. With the
3 exception of the Regional Executive Secretary, the heads of
4 the regional departments shall be mandatory.

5

6 The qualifications of regional appointive officials, their
7 duties and functions, are as follows:

8

9 1) Office of the Regional Executive Secretary

10 a) The Regional Executive Secretary of the Cordillera
11 Autonomous Region shall be a citizen of the
12 Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral character,
13 a holder of a college degree preferably in law,
14 administration or any other related course from a
15 recognized college or university. He/she must have
16 acquired experience in management work for at least
17 five (5) years.

18 b) The Regional Executive Secretary shall, subject to
19 the control and supervision of the Regional Governor,
20 carry out the functions and duties delegated to
21 him/her and shall:

22 1. Directly assist the Regional Governor in the
23 management of the affairs pertaining to the
24 Cordillera Autonomous Region.

25 2. Implement directives, orders and decisions.

26 3. Decide, for and in behalf of the Regional Governor,
27 matters not requiring personal attention of the
28 Regional Governor.

29 4. Exercise supervision and control over the various
30 units in the Office of the Regional Governor
31 including their internal administrative requirements.

32 5. Exercise supervision, in behalf of the Regional
33 Governor, over the various agencies under the Office
34 of the Regional Governor.

35 6. Provide overall coordination in the operation of the
36 Regional Executive Office.

37 7. Determine and assign matters to the appropriate
38 units in the Office of the Regional Governor.

39 8. Have administrative responsibility for matters in the
40 Office of the Regional Governor coming from the
41 various regional offices and agencies of government.

- 1 9. Exercise primary authority to sign papers "By
2 authority of the Regional Governor", attest executive
3 orders and other issuances unless attestation is
4 specifically delegated to other officials by him or by
5 the Regional Governor.
- 6 10. Determine, with the approval of the Regional
7 Governor, the appropriate assignment of offices not
8 placed by law under any specific regional executive
9 department.
- 10 11. Provide consultative, research, fact-finding and
11 advisory service to the Regional Governor.
- 12 12. Assist the Regional Governor in the performance of
13 functions pertaining to legislation.
- 14 13. Assist the Regional Governor in the administration
15 of special projects.
- 16 14. Take charge of matters pertaining to protocol in the
17 Regional Government and ceremonial functions.
- 18 15. Provide secretarial and clerical services for the
19 Regional Governor and other bodies.
- 20 16. Promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to
21 carry out the objectives, policies and functions of
22 the Office of the Regional Governor.
- 23 17. Perform such other functions as the Regional
24 Governor may direct.

25
26 2) Office of the Regional Accountant

- 27 (a) The Regional Accountant shall be a citizen of the
28 Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral character,
29 and a certified public accountant. He/she must have
30 acquired experience in the treasury or accounting
31 service for at least five (5) years.
- 32 (b) The incumbent chief accountant in the office of
33 the treasurer shall be given preference in the
34 appointment to the position of the regional
35 accountant.
- 36 (c) The regional accountant shall take charge of both
37 the accounting and internal audit services of the
38 autonomous region and shall:
 - 39 1. Install and maintain an internal audit system in
40 the autonomous region.

- 1 2. Prepare and submit financial statements to the
2 Regional Governor and to the Regional Assembly.
- 3 3. Apprise the Regional Assembly and other
4 government officials on the financial condition and
5 operations of the autonomous region.
- 6 4. Certify to the availability of budgetary allotment
7 to which expenditures and obligations may be
8 properly charged.
- 9 5. Review supporting documents before
10 preparation of vouchers to determine completeness
11 of requirements.
- 12 6. Prepare statements of cash advances,
13 liquidation, salaries, allowances, reimbursements
14 and remittances pertaining to the autonomous
15 region.
- 16 7. Prepare statements of journal vouchers and
17 liquidation of the same and other adjustments
18 related thereto.
- 19 8. Post individual disbursements to the subsidiary
20 ledger and index cards.
- 21 9. Maintain individual ledgers for officials and
22 employees of the autonomous region pertaining to
23 payrolls and deductions.
- 24 10. Record and post in index cards details of
25 purchased furniture, fixtures, and equipment,
26 including disposal thereof, if any.
- 27 11. Account for all issued requests for obligations
28 and maintain and keep all records and reports
29 related thereto.
- 30 12. Prepare journals and the analysis of obligations
31 and maintain and keep all records and reports
32 related thereto.
- 33 13. Exercise such other powers and perform such
34 other duties and functions as may be provided by
35 law or ordinance.

36

37 3) Office of the Regional Administrator

- 38 (a) The Regional Administrator shall be a citizen of
39 the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral
40 character, and a holder of a college degree preferably

1 in law, public administration or any other related
2 course from a recognized college or university. He/she
3 must have acquired experience in management and
4 administration work for at least five (5) years.

5 (b) Subject to the control and supervision of the
6 Regional Governor, the Regional Administrator shall:

7 1. Develop plans and strategies and upon approval
8 thereof by the Regional Governor, implement the same
9 particularly those which have to do with the
10 management and administration-related programs and
11 projects which the Regional Governor is empowered to
12 implement and which the Regional Assembly is
13 empowered to provide for under this Organic Act.

14 2. Assist in the coordination of the work of all the
15 officials of the autonomous region, under the
16 supervision, direction, and control of the Regional
17 Governor, and for this purpose, he may convene the
18 chiefs of offices and other officials of the autonomous
19 region.

20 3. Establish and maintain a sound personnel program
21 for the autonomous region designed to promote career
22 development and uphold the merit principle in the
23 local government service.

24 4. Conduct a continuing organizational development of
25 the autonomous region with the end in view of
26 instituting effective administrative reforms.

27 5. Be in the frontline of the delivery of administrative
28 support services, particularly those related to the
29 situations during and in the aftermath of man-made
30 and natural disasters and calamities.

31 6. Recommend to the Regional Assembly and advise
32 the Regional Governor, as the case may be, on all
33 other matters relative to the management and
34 administration of the regional autonomous
35 government.

36 7. Exercise such other powers and perform such other
37 duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or
38 by ordinance.

1 4) Office of the Regional Legal Officer

2 (a) The Regional Legal Officer shall be a citizen of the
3 Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral character,
4 and a member of the Philippine Bar. He must have
5 practiced his profession for at least five (5) years.

6 (b) The Regional Legal Officer, the chief legal counsel
7 of the regional autonomous government, shall take
8 charge of the office of legal services and shall:

9 1. Formulate measures for the consideration of the
10 Regional Assembly and provide legal assistance and
11 support to the Regional Governor, as the case may be,
12 in carrying out the delivery of basic services and
13 provisions of adequate facilities necessary.

14 2. Develop plans and strategies and upon approval
15 thereof by the Regional Governor, as the case may be,
16 implement the same, particularly those which have to
17 do with programs and projects related to legal services
18 which the Regional Governor is empowered to
19 implement and which the Regional Assembly is
20 empowered to provide for under this Organic Act.

21 3. Recommend measures and advise the Regional
22 Governor on all other matters related to upholding the
23 rule of law.

24 4. Be in the frontline of protecting human rights and
25 prosecuting any violations thereof, particularly those
26 which occur during and in the aftermath of man-made
27 or natural disasters or calamities.

28 5. Exercise such other powers and perform such other
29 duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or
30 ordinance.

31 6. In addition to the foregoing duties and functions,
32 the legal officer shall:

33 i. Represent the regional autonomous government
34 in all civil actions and special proceedings
35 wherein the autonomous region or any official
36 thereof, in his official capacity, is a party.

37 ii. When required by the Regional Governor, draft
38 ordinances, contracts, bonds, leases and other
39 instruments, involving any interest of the
40 autonomous region and provide comments and
41 recommendations on any instrument already
42 drawn.

- 1 iii. Render his/her opinion in writing on any question
2 of law when requested to do so by the Regional
3 Governor.
- 4 iv. Investigate or cause to be investigated any
5 Regional Government official or employee for
6 administrative neglect or misconduct in office,
7 and recommend appropriate action to the
8 Regional Governor as the case may be.
- 9 v. Investigate or cause to be investigated any person,
10 firm or corporation holding any franchise or
11 exercising any public privilege for failure to
12 comply with any term or condition in the grant of
13 such franchise or privilege by the Regional
14 Government, and recommending appropriate
15 action to the Regional Governor, as the case may
16 be.
- 17 vi. When directed by the Regional Governor, initiate
18 and prosecute in the interest of the autonomous
19 region any civil action on any bond, lease or other
20 contract upon any breach or violation thereof.
- 21 vii. Review and submit recommendations on
22 ordinances approved and execute orders issued.

23

24 5) Office of the Regional Treasurer

25

- 26 a) The Regional Treasurer shall be a citizen of the
27 Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral character,
28 and a holder of a college degree preferably in
29 commerce, public administration or law from a
30 recognized college or university. He/she must have
31 acquired experience in treasury or accounting service
32 for at least five (5) years.
- 33
- 34 b) The Regional Treasurer shall take charge of the
35 Treasury Office, perform the duties provided for under
36 Book II of the Local Government Code, and shall:
- 37
- 38 1. Advise the Regional Governor and other Regional
39 Government officials concerned regarding the
40 disposition of government funds, and on such other
41 matters relative to public finance.
- 42 2. Take custody of and exercise proper management of
43 the funds of the autonomous region.

1 3. Take charge of the disbursement of all Regional
2 Government funds and such other funds the custody
3 of which may be entrusted to him/her by law or other
4 competent authority.

5 4. Maintain and update the tax information system of
6 the autonomous region.

7 5. Exercise such other powers and perform such other
8 duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or
9 ordinance.

10
11 6) Office of the Regional General Services Officer

12 (a) The Regional General Services Officer shall be a
13 citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good
14 moral character, and a holder of a college degree
15 preferably on public administration, business
16 administration and management or any other related
17 course from a recognized college or university. He/she
18 must have acquired experience in general services,
19 including management of supply, property, solid waste
20 disposal, and general sanitation, for at least five (5)
21 years.

22 (b) The Regional General Services Officer shall take
23 charge of the Office on General Services and shall:

24 1. Formulate measures for the consideration of the
25 Regional Governor and provide him technical
26 assistance and support in carrying out measures to
27 ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of
28 adequate facilities pursuant to the Local
29 Government Code and this Organic Act which
30 require general services expertise and technical
31 support services.

32 2. Develop plans and strategies and upon approval
33 thereof by the Regional Governor implement the
34 same, particularly those which have to do with the
35 general services supportive of the welfare of the
36 inhabitants which the Regional Governor is
37 empowered to implement.

38 3. Be in the frontline of general services related
39 activities, such as the possible or imminent
40 destruction or damage to records, supplies,
41 properties, and structures and the orderly and
42 sanitary clearing up of waste materials or debris,
43 particularly during and in the aftermath of man-
44 made and natural calamities and disasters.

- 1 4. Recommend and advise the Regional Governor on all
2 matters relative to general services.
- 3 5. In addition to the foregoing duties and functions,
4 the General Services Officer shall:
- 5 i. Take custody of and be accountable for all
6 properties, real or personal, owned by the
7 autonomous government and those granted to it
8 in the form of donation, reparation, assistance
9 and counterpart of joint projects.
- 10 ii. With the approval of the Regional Governor,
11 assign building or land space to regional officials,
12 who by law, are entitled to such space.
13 Recommend to the Regional Governor reasonable
14 rental rates for Regional Government properties,
15 whether real or personal, which will be leased to
16 public or private entities.
- 17 iii. Recommend to the Regional Governor reasonable
18 rental rates of private properties which may be
19 leased for the official use of the Regional
20 Government.
- 21 iv. Maintain and supervise janitorial, security,
22 government public buildings and other real
23 property, whether owned or leased by the Regional
24 Government.
- 25 v. Collate and disseminate information regarding
26 prices, shipping and other costs of supplies and
27 other items commonly used by the Regional
28 Government.
- 29 vi. Perform archival and record management with
30 respect to records of offices and departments of
31 the Regional Government.
- 32 vii. Perform all other functions pertaining to supply
33 and property management heretofore performed
34 by the Regional Government Treasurer. and
35 enforce policies on records creation, maintenance,
36 and disposal.
- 37 viii. Exercise such other powers and perform such
38 other duties and functions as may be
39 prescribed by law or ordinance.

1 7) Office of the Regional Engineer

2 (a) The Regional Engineer shall be a citizen of the
3 Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral character,
4 and a licensed civil engineer. He/she must have
5 acquired experience in the practice of his/her
6 profession for at least five (5) years.

7 (b) The regional engineer shall take charge of the
8 Engineering Office of the Cordillera Autonomous
9 government and shall:

10 1. Initiate, review and recommend changes in policies
11 and objectives, plans and programs, techniques,
12 procedures and practices in infrastructure
13 development and public works in general of the
14 Regional Government.

15 2. Advise the Regional Governor on infrastructure,
16 public works, and other engineering matters.

17 3. Administer, coordinate, supervise, and control the
18 construction, maintenance, improvement, and repair
19 of roads, bridges, and other engineering and public
20 works projects of the Regional Government.

21 4. Provide engineering services to the Regional
22 Government, including investigation and survey,
23 engineering designs, feasibility studies, and project
24 management.

25 5. Exercise such other powers and perform such other
26 duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or
27 ordinance.

28

29 8) Office of the Regional Information Officer

30 (a) The Regional Information Officer shall be a citizen
31 of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral
32 character, and a holder of a college degree preferably in
33 journalism, mass communication or any other related
34 course from a recognized college or university. He/she
35 must have experience in writing articles and research
36 papers, or in writing for print, television or broadcast
37 media of at least five (5) years.

38 (b) The Regional Information Officer shall take
39 charge of the Office on Public Information and shall:

40 1. Formulate measures and provide technical
41 assistance and support to the Regional Government in

1 providing the information and research data required
2 for the delivery of basic services and provision of
3 adequate facilities so that the public becomes aware of
4 said services and may fully avail of the same.

5 2. Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval
6 thereof by the Regional Governor implement the same,
7 particularly those which have to do with public
8 information and research data to support programs
9 and projects which the Regional Governor is
10 empowered to implement and provide.

11 3. Be in the frontline in providing information during
12 and in the aftermath of man-made and natural
13 calamities and disasters, with special attention to the
14 victims thereof, to help minimize injuries and
15 casualties during and after emergency, and to
16 accelerate relief and rehabilitation.

17 4. Recommend and advise the Regional Governor on
18 all matters relative to public information and research
19 data as it relates to the total socio-economic
20 development of the Regional Government.

21 5. In addition to the foregoing duties and functions,
22 the regional information officer shall:

23 i. Provide relevant, adequate, and timely
24 information to the autonomous region and its
25 residents.

26 ii. Furnish relevant regional government
27 information and data to government agencies or
28 offices as may be required by law or ordinance,
29 and non-governmental organizations.

30 iii. Maintain effective liaison with the various
31 sectors of the community on matters and issues
32 that affect the livelihood and the quality of life
33 of the inhabitants and encourage support for
34 programs of the local, regional and national
35 government.

36 iv. Exercise such other powers and perform such
37 other duties and functions as may be prescribed
38 by law or ordinance.

39
40 **Section 65.** There shall be a Regional Development Board
41 (RDP) which shall function as the main planning and
42 advisory body of the autonomous government, setting the

1 direction of economic and social development of the
2 autonomous region and through which regional
3 development efforts shall be coordinated.

4

5 **Section 66.** The Regional Development Board, which shall
6 be headed by the Regional Governor, shall be composed of
7 the Regional Governor as chairman, and a private sector
8 representative as co-chairman, the Regional Vice-Governor
9 as vice-chairman, and the following as members:

10 (a) All the provincial governors, the city and capital
11 town mayors.

12 (b) Two (2) members of the Regional Assembly to be
13 designated by its presiding officer.

14 (c) Private sector representatives of duly accredited
15 private sector and non-government
16 organizations/people's organizations, Provided that
17 their composition shall not be more than one-fourth of
18 the total membership.

19 (d) Regional heads of national line agencies operating
20 in the region.

21 (e) The Board may designate special non-voting
22 members (SNVMs) coming from both the public and
23 private sectors, upon concurrence of the majority of its
24 regular members.

25

26 **Section 67.** The regional office of the National Economic
27 and Development Authority (NEDA) shall serve as the
28 secretariat and technical operations arm of the Board.

29

30 **Section 68.** The Regional Development Board shall:

31 (a) Coordinate the preparation, implementation,
32 monitoring and evaluation of short- and long-term
33 regional development plans and investment programs,
34 regional physical framework plans and special
35 development plans, including the formulation of policy
36 recommendations.

37 (b) Integrate approved development plans of
38 provinces and cities, line agencies, state universities
39 and colleges, government owned and controlled
40 corporations and special development authorities in

1 the autonomous region into the regional development
2 plan.

3 (c) Review, prioritize, and endorse to the autonomous
4 government the annual and multi-year sectoral
5 investment programs of the autonomous region for
6 funding and implementation.

7 (d) Review and endorse to the national government
8 the annual budgets of agency regional offices, state
9 colleges and universities and special development
10 authorities.

11 (e) Promote and direct the inflow and allocation of
12 private investments in the autonomous region to
13 support regional development objectives, policies,
14 strategies.

15 (f) Review and endorse national plans, programs and
16 projects proposed for implementation in the
17 autonomous region.

18 (g) As required by the Investment Coordinating
19 Council (ICC), review and endorse projects of national
20 government agencies that have impact on the region
21 and projects of LGUs in the region requiring national
22 government exposure which may come in the form of
23 guarantees, national government budget
24 appropriations or subsidies, among others.

25 (h) Initiate and coordinate the development, funding
26 and implementation of regional and special
27 development projects such as those involving several
28 agencies or LGUs.

29 (i) Coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of
30 development projects undertaken by government
31 agencies, local government units, state colleges and
32 universities, government-owned and/or controlled
33 corporations and special development authorities in
34 the autonomous region.

35 (j) Perform other related functions and activities as
36 may be necessary to promote and sustain the socio-
37 economic development of the autonomous region.

38
39 **Section 69.** The Board shall create appropriate technical
40 and sectoral committees to assist in its work.

1 **Section 70.** Existing regional coordinating committees
2 that are created by various laws and currently attached to
3 specific agencies, and ad-hoc program/project-based
4 steering committees, such as, but not limited to Regional
5 Anti-Poverty Council, Regional Project Monitoring
6 Committee, Regional Land Use Committee, Regional Peace
7 and Order Committee, Regional Disaster Risk Reduction
8 Management Committee, Regional Sustainable
9 Development Committee, Regional Research Coordinating
10 Committee, etc.. shall be placed under the umbrella of the
11 Regional Development Board. Secretariat work of these
12 inter-agency committees shall continue to be provided by
13 their mother agency.

14

15 **Section 71.** When the need arises, the Board shall invite
16 the Congressmen of the provinces and cities of the
17 autonomous region.

18

19

ARTICLE VI

20

THE REGIONAL VICE-GOVERNOR

21

22 **Section 72.** The Regional Vice-Governor shall
23 automatically become the Presiding Officer of the Regional
24 Assembly.

25

26 **Section 73.** As the Presiding Officer of the Regional
27 Assembly, the Regional Vice-Governor shall:

28 (a) Sign all warrants drawn on the Regional Treasury
29 Office for all expenditures appropriated for the
30 operation of the Regional Assembly;

31 (b) Subject to civil service law, rules and regulations,
32 and this Organic Act, appoint all officials and
33 employees of the Office of the Regional Vice-Governor,
34 the Regional Assembly and the Office of the
35 Secretary to the Regional Assembly. The appointment
36 of the Secretary to the Regional Assembly shall
37 however require the concurrence of the majority of the
38 members of the Regional Assembly as well as
39 compliance to civil service law, rules and regulations
40 and this Organic Act;

- 1 (c) Assume the office of the Regional Governor for the
2 unexpired term of the latter in the event of a
3 permanent vacancy as provided in this Organic Act;
- 4 (d) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and
5 functions of the Regional Governor in cases of
6 temporary vacancy as provided in this Organic Act;
- 7 (e) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and
8 functions as may be prescribed by an ordinance;

9

10 **Section 74.** The Regional Vice-Governor shall receive a
11 monthly compensation equivalent to that of a department
12 undersecretary of the national government, which shall not
13 be decreased during his/her tenure. No increase in the
14 salary of the Regional Vice-Governor shall take effect until
15 after the expiration of his/her term.

16

17

ARTICLE VII

18

THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

19

20 **Section 75.** The legislative power of the Regional
21 Government in the Cordillera Autonomous Region shall be
22 vested in the Regional Assembly, except the extent reserved
23 by the Constitution and this Organic Act on initiative and
24 referendum. Within its territorial jurisdiction and subject to
25 the provisions of the Constitution and national laws, the
26 Regional Assembly of the Cordillera Autonomous Region
27 shall have legislative powers over those functions
28 enumerated under Section 28.

29

30 **Section 76.** The Regional Assembly shall enact
31 ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for
32 the general welfare of the region and its inhabitants as well
33 as for the efficient and effective operation of the Regional
34 Government.

35

36 **Section 77.** The Regional Assembly shall have an
37 administrative and support staff. Each member shall have
38 at least three (3) confidential Legislative Assistants whose
39 qualifications, rank and salary grade level shall be

1 equivalent to regional executive assistants. Their term of
2 service shall however be coterminous with their overseer.

3 **Section 78.** The Regional Assembly shall start its regular
4 session on the first Monday of July, and by resolution fix
5 the day, time and place of its regular sessions, which shall
6 be held at least once a week. However, the Assembly may
7 be called to a special session by the Chairperson or the
8 Regional Governor whenever necessary and a notice of
9 meeting shall be sent to the member's place of residence at
10 least twenty-four (24) hours before the special session is
11 held. Unless otherwise concurred in by two-thirds (2/3)
12 votes of the members, there being a quorum, no other
13 matters may be considered at a special session except
14 those stated in the notice. The Regional Assembly may
15 invite the President and other government officials to
16 address it.

17

18 **Section 79.** Sessions and Quorum.

19 (a) A majority of all the members of the Regional
20 Assembly shall constitute a quorum to do business,
21 but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day,
22 and may compel the attendance of absent members in
23 such manner, and under such penalties as the
24 Assembly may provide.

25 (b) On the first regular session following the election
26 of its members, and within ninety (90) days thereafter,
27 the Regional Assembly shall adopt or update its rules
28 of proceedings which shall include, among other
29 things, the organization of the Assembly and the
30 election of its officers, creation of standing committees,
31 the time, place and manner of convening its regular
32 and special sessions, the conduct and discipline of its
33 members, the conduct and discipline of every person
34 present during its session, the preparation and
35 publication of its journal, the determination of
36 quorum, and the necessary votes to pass any measure,
37 and recall proceedings in accordance with the Local
38 Government Code.

1 **Section 80.** Ordinance

2 (a) Every ordinance shall embrace only one (1)
3 subject which shall be expressed in the title thereof.

4 (b) No ordinance shall become a law unless it has
5 passed three readings on separate days, and printed
6 copies thereof in its final form have been distributed to
7 the members three (3) days before its passage, except
8 when the Governor certifies to the necessity of its
9 immediate enactment to meet a public calamity or
10 emergency affecting the region, or the component
11 provinces, cities, municipalities or barangays.

12 (c) Upon the last reading of an ordinance, no
13 amendment thereto shall be allowed, and the vote
14 thereon shall be taken immediately thereafter, and the
15 yeas and nays entered in the Journal.

16 (d) Every ordinance passed by the Regional Assembly
17 shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the
18 Regional Governor. If he/she approves the same,
19 he/she shall sign it. otherwise, he/she shall veto it
20 and return the same with his objections to the
21 Regional Assembly, which shall enter the objections in
22 its Journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such
23 reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of
24 the Regional Assembly shall agree to pass the
25 ordinance, it shall become a law. The Regional
26 Governor shall communicate his veto of any ordinance
27 to the Regional Assembly within ten (10) days from
28 receipt thereof otherwise, it shall become a law as if
29 he/she had signed it.

30 (e) The Regional Governor shall have the power to
31 veto any particular item or items in an appropriation
32 or revenue, but the veto shall not affect the item or
33 items to which he/she does not object.

34

35 **Section 81.** People's Question Hour

36 (a) There shall be a people's hour at least once a
37 month or as often as the rules of the Regional
38 Assembly may provide, which shall be included in the
39 Order of Business, during which any member of the
40 Cabinet may, upon his own initiative, with the consent
41 of the Regional Governor, or upon the request of the
42 Regional Assembly, appear and answer questions and

1 interpellations by members of the assembly on any
2 matter pertaining to his department.

- 3 (b) The Regional Assembly or any of its committees
4 may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation in
5 accordance with its duly published rules of procedure.
6 The rights and dignity of persons appearing in or
7 affected by such inquiries shall be respected.

8
9 **Section 82.** No member shall be questioned or be held
10 liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the
11 Regional Assembly or in any committee thereof.

12
13 **Section 83.** The Regional Assembly shall pass an
14 appropriations ordinance for the ensuing year at or before
15 the end of each year, based on the budget of expenditures
16 and sources of funds submitted to it by the Regional
17 Governor.

- 18 (a) No provision or enactment shall be embraced in
19 the regional appropriations ordinance, unless it relates
20 specifically to some particular appropriations therein.
21 Any such provision or enactment shall be limited in its
22 operation to the appropriation to which it relates.

- 23 (b) The procedure in approving appropriations for the
24 Regional Assembly shall strictly follow the same
25 procedure for approving appropriations for the regional
26 executive department.

- 27 (c) A special appropriations ordinance shall specify
28 the purpose for which it is intended, and shall be
29 supported by funds actually available as certified by
30 the Regional Treasurer or to be raised by a
31 corresponding revenue proposal therein.

- 32 (d) No ordinance shall be passed authorizing any
33 transfer of appropriations. however, the Regional
34 Governor and the presiding officer of the Assembly
35 may, by ordinance, be authorized to augment any item
36 in the general appropriations ordinance for their
37 respective departments from savings in other items of
38 their respective appropriations.

- 39 (e) The Regional Assembly may not increase the
40 appropriations recommended by the Regional
41 Governor for the operation of the Regional Government
42 as specified in the budget. The form, content and

1 manner of preparation of the budget shall be
2 prescribed by regional law: Provided, however, that
3 pending the enactment of such a regional law, the
4 budgeting process of the Regional Government shall be
5 governed by existing national laws and rules and
6 regulations prescribed by the Department of Budget
7 and Management.

8 **Section 84.** Expenditure of Public Funds

9 (a) No money shall be paid out of the regional
10 treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation
11 made by regional law.

12 (b) No money or property shall be appropriated,
13 applied, paid or used, directly or indirectly, for the use,
14 benefit or support, of any sect, church, denomination,
15 sectarian institution, or system of religion or for the
16 use, benefit or support of any priest, preacher,
17 minister or other religious teacher or dignitary as
18 such, except when such priest, preacher, minister or
19 dignitary is assigned to the regional police or
20 government orphanage and rehabilitation centers or
21 similar institutions.

22 (c) All money collected on any regional tax levied for a
23 special purpose shall be treated as a special fund and
24 paid out for such purpose only. If the purpose for
25 which a special fund was created has been fulfilled or
26 abandoned, the balance, if any, shall be transferred to
27 the general fund of the Regional Government.

28
29 **Section 85.** The Regional Assembly shall, within ten (10)
30 working days from approval thereof, submit to the
31 President and to both Houses of Congress a certified true
32 copy of all ordinances and resolutions it passed.

33
34
35 **Section 86.** The Regional Assembly may create such other
36 offices and positions as may be necessary to carry out the
37 purpose of the regional government subject to availability
38 of funds.

39
40 **Section 87.** There shall be a Secretary to the Regional
41 Assembly with a rank, status and salary grade level
42 equivalent to a head of a regional department. He must be
43 a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral

1 character, and a holder of a college degree preferably in
2 law, commerce, public administration, or any other related
3 course from a recognized college or university. He must
4 have at least three (3) years of relevant experience.

5
6 The Secretary to the Regional Assembly shall:

- 7 1. Take charge of the office of the secretary to the
8 Regional Assembly;
- 9 2. Attend meetings of the Regional Assembly, and keep
10 a journal of its proceedings;
- 11 3. Keep the seal of the Regional Government and affix
12 the same with his/her signature to all ordinances,
13 resolutions, and other official acts of the Regional
14 Assembly and present the same to the presiding
15 officer for his/her signature;
- 16 4. Forward to the Regional Governor for approval
17 copies of ordinance enacted by the Regional
18 Assembly and duly certified by the presiding officer;
- 19 5. Forward to the Regional Assembly copies of duly
20 approved ordinances;
- 21 6. Furnish, upon request of any interested party,
22 certified copies of records of public character in
23 his/her custody upon payment to the Regional
24 Treasurer of such fees as maybe prescribed by
25 ordinance;
- 26 7. Record in a book kept for the purpose, all
27 ordinances and resolutions enacted or adopted by
28 the Regional Assembly, with the dates of passage
29 and publication thereof;
- 30 8. Keep his/her office in all non-confidential records
31 therein open to the public during the usual business
32 hours;
- 33 9. Translate into the dialect used by the majority of the
34 inhabitants all ordinances and resolutions
35 immediately after their approval, and cause the
36 publication of the same together with the original
37 version;
- 38 10. Take custody of the local archives and, where
39 applicable, the local library in annual account for
40 the same; and

1

2 **Section 92.** The Regional Government shall take
3 affirmative action to encourage the component government
4 units, non-government organizations, including
5 corporations, cooperatives, peoples' organizations, and
6 similar collective associations, to actively participate and
7 support the economic and social growth and development
8 of the units in the region.

9 **Section 93.** The regional development program shall seek
10 accelerated and sustainable economic and social growth
11 and development in the region, taking into account the
12 peculiarities of the social, economic, and geo-physical
13 circumstances of the component Cordillera communities
14 and the need to preserve ecological balance. The regional
15 development plan shall take into account an environmental
16 critical area network zoning and use the watershed as a
17 planning unit considering that the region is a cradle of
18 watersheds.

19

20 **Section 94.** In the formulation and implementation of
21 development policies [e.g. standards, costing etc], plans,
22 programs, and projects, the Regional Government shall,
23 among other things, address the following concerns:

24 (a) Social development which shall include among
25 others, empowering the Cordillerans and their adopted
26 organizations to participate actively, and share
27 equitably, in the benefits of development.

28 (b) Ecosystems management, to include among
29 others the delineation, protection, preservation,
30 rehabilitation and development of watersheds and
31 forest reserves, fish sanctuaries/refuge, and other
32 government reservations that are declared by
33 competent authorities as critical to the survival of the
34 Cordillera communities, and their demarcation as
35 inalienable and protected areas.

36 (c) Knowledge management, which shall include,
37 among others, the inventory, validation, and
38 promotion of indigenous knowledge, systems,
39 practices, institutions and applied researches and
40 inventions that support accelerated and sustainable
41 economic, social growth and development in the region
42 and the protection of these through patents.

1 (d) Research and development, which shall include
2 among others the conduct of applied researches that
3 shall identify the specific causes of unemployment,
4 poverty, and underdevelopment in each of the
5 component units of the region, given their disparities
6 in the socio-cultural, economic, infrastructural,
7 institutional, and natural resource circumstances and
8 the formulation of research-validated regional
9 development strategies and priority programs to
10 address the development needs of these component
11 communities.

12 (e) Institutional development, which shall include
13 among others the strengthening of peoples
14 organizations, cooperatives, and similar institutions,
15 empowering these for accelerating economic and social
16 growth and development and thereby democratizing
17 ownership, participation, and responsibility for
18 development.

19 (f) Land use management which shall include,
20 among others, environmental protection and resources
21 conservation.

22 (g) Urban land reform to address the problem of
23 inadequate shelter and congestion with its attendant
24 social problems.

25 (h) Rural modernization and development through
26 the development and use of appropriate technologies,
27 inventions and applicable indigenous knowledge
28 systems and practices considering the sustainability of
29 agriculture and industrial activities under the
30 topographic circumstances of the region's land
31 resources.

32 (i) Local and regional infrastructure development.

33
34 **Section 95.** The exploration, development, utilization,
35 management and enjoyment of the region's natural
36 resources shall be under the control and supervision of the
37 Regional Government upon consultation, except with
38 respect to uranium, coal and petroleum which shall be
39 under the control and supervision of the national
40 government.

1 **Section 96.** The exploitation, exploration, development,
2 enjoyment and utilization of natural resources, except
3 those enumerated in Section 87 of this article, shall be
4 allowed to citizens of the Philippines and to private
5 enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and
6 similar collective organizations with at least sixty percent
7 (60%) of their capital investment or capital stocks directly
8 controlled or owned by citizens of the Philippines: Provided
9 that the implementation of programs, projects, and
10 activities related to these natural resources in the region
11 shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution and
12 national laws.

13
14 **Section 97.** The Regional Government shall actively
15 pursue forestation and reforestation programs to ensure
16 that lands not devoted to agriculture in the Autonomous
17 Region shall be covered with trees, giving priority to land
18 strips along the edges of rivers and streams and shorelines
19 of lakes

20
21 **Section 98.** The Regional Government in partnership with
22 the communities, especially the tribal peoples, and their
23 government units, and support of the national government
24 shall adopt measures for the development of communities
25 occupying lands eighteen percent (18%) slope or over, by
26 providing the necessary infrastructure, financial and
27 technical support.

28
29 **Section 99.** The Regional Government shall, as a matter
30 of priority regulate the extraction and processing of mineral
31 and non-mineral resources in the region to protect the
32 ecosystem, including setting limitations on open pit mining
33 and similar non-reversible, environmentally destructive
34 methods of mining. Only responsible mining and quarrying
35 regardless of scale shall be allowed and supported by the
36 regional autonomous government, taking into
37 consideration sustainable rural development, ecological
38 balance and the interest of the communities where such
39 operations are conducted.

40
41 **Section 100.** The Regional Government shall, in
42 coordination with the national government, establish a
43 transportation and communication system interconnecting

1 the various areas of the autonomous region with each other
2 and to other regions adjacent to the Cordilleras. Likewise,
3 the Regional Government in close coordination with
4 component local government units shall plan, construct,
5 modernize and maintain rural and urban infrastructure
6 facilities and utilities, including alternative transport
7 systems within critical environments.

8 **Section 101.** Subject to ecological considerations, the
9 Regional Government shall adopt and implement a
10 comprehensive rural agrarian reform program, as well as
11 an urban development program consistent with the
12 Constitution and national laws and policies to ensure the
13 just and sustainable utilization of land within its
14 jurisdiction.

15

16 **Section 102.** The Regional Government shall, while
17 maintaining national standards pertaining to the
18 protection, conservation, and enhancement, of the
19 environment and natural resources, develop standards
20 appropriate to the socio-cultural and environmental
21 uniqueness of the Cordillera.

22

23

ARTICLE IX

24

**SOURCES OF REVENUES AND OTHER FISCAL
MATTERS**

25

26

27 **Section 103.** To conserve, protect and develop the
28 national patrimony and heritage located in the Cordillera
29 Autonomous Region, and devolved to the region by this
30 Organic Act, and to fund the operations of the Regional
31 Government, the Regional Government shall, in addition to
32 the existing shares of local government units, regional line
33 agencies and other government institutions, have a share
34 of the national taxes which include but not limited to the
35 following:

36

37

38

39

40

41

(a) *One percent (1%) of the national Internal Revenue
Taxes.* The Regional Government shall have a share in
the national internal revenue taxes equivalent to one
percent (1%) based on the collection of the third fiscal
year preceding the current fiscal year, in addition to
the internal revenue allotment shares of the local

1 government units. Eighty percent (80%) of such share
2 shall be appropriated in the annual regional budget for
3 development projects. The internal revenue allotment
4 share of the Regional Government shall be released
5 directly to the Regional Government Treasurer and
6 shall not be subject to any lien or holdback that may
7 be imposed by the national government for whatever
8 purpose.

9 (b) *Forty percent (40%) Share of the National Wealth*
10 *Tax.* The Regional Government shall have a separate
11 forty percent (40%) share of the gross collections in the
12 preceding fiscal year from mining taxes, royalties,
13 environmental services, forestry and fishery charges,
14 energy production charges, and such other taxes, fees
15 and charges, including related surcharges, interests
16 and fines derived from the utilization and development
17 of the national wealth within its territorial jurisdiction.
18 Provided, that the Regional Government shall likewise
19 be entitled to ten percent (10%) share of the gross
20 collections from the utilization of national wealth
21 sourced or emanating from the autonomous region by
22 persons, individual or juridical, operating outside the
23 territorial jurisdiction of the autonomous region.
24 Provided that the share in national wealth shall be
25 used for the preservation and further development of
26 the environment.

27 Local Government Units shall have a share of one
28 and one-half percent (1.5%) of the gross sales or
29 receipts or fifty percent (50%) of the gross collection,
30 whichever is higher, derived from renewable energy
31 taxes, mining taxes, royalties, forestry and fishery
32 charges, and such other taxes, fees and charges,
33 including related surcharges, interests or fines, and
34 from its share in any co-production, joint ventures or
35 production sharing agreement in the utilization and
36 development of the national wealth within their
37 territorial jurisdiction. This provision shall be
38 applicable to all corporations, partnership, individuals
39 and other entities including government agencies and
40 government owned or controlled corporations engaged
41 in the utilization and development of the national
42 wealth within the region irrespective of existing
43 contrary laws, rules and regulations of national
44 application.

1 (c) *Two percent (2%) share out of the Economic Zones*
2 *Tax.* The Regional Government shall have a separate
3 two percent (2%) share out of the five percent (5%)
4 final tax on gross income earned or equivalent to forty
5 percent (40%) of total tax paid by businesses within
6 the economic zones found in the Cordillera, in addition
7 to the existing shares of the local government units.
8 The fund shall be used for Trade and Industry
9 programs.

10 Local government units shall have a separate two
11 percent (2%) share out of the five percent (5%) final
12 tax on gross tax paid by businesses within the
13 economic zones.

14 (d) *Twenty percent (20%) Share of Excess in Value*
15 *Added Tax.* The Regional Government shall have a
16 separate twenty percent (20%) share of the excess in
17 VAT collections from the immediately preceding year.
18 The fund shall support cottage industry programs.

19 Local government units shall have a separate twenty
20 percent (20%) share of the excess in VAT collections
21 from the immediately preceding year.

22 (e) *Fifteen percent (15%) Share of Total Excise Tax.*
23 The Regional Government shall have a separate fifteen
24 percent (15%) share of the total excise tax collection on
25 locally manufactured Virginia-type cigarettes
26 manufactured within the territorial jurisdiction of the
27 autonomous region for the second calendar year
28 preceding the year of distribution, in addition to the
29 existing shares of the local government units. The fund
30 shall be used for agriculture programs.

31 Local government units shall have a separate
32 fifteen percent (15%) share from the total excise tax
33 collection on locally manufactured Virginia-type
34 cigarettes for the second year preceding the year of
35 distribution.

36 (f) *Fifteen percent (15%) Share of Incremental Excise*
37 *Tax on Burley and Native Tobacco Products.* The
38 Regional Government shall have a separate fifteen
39 percent (15%) share of the excise tax collected on
40 burley and native tobacco products collected within
41 the region. The fund shall be used for agriculture
42 programs.

1 Local Government Units shall have a separate
2 fifteen percent (15%) share of the excise tax collected
3 on burley and native tobacco products.

4 (g) Forty percent (40%) Share of Mini-Hydro Electric
5 Power Tax. The Regional Government shall have a
6 separate forty percent (40%) of the special privilege tax
7 on mini-hydroelectric power developers within the
8 region for the maintenance of the watershed.

9 Local government units' share from the Mini-
10 hydro electric power tax shall be based on the
11 computation provided under the Local Government
12 Code (RA 7160).

13 (h) One percent (1%) of net income of Philippine
14 Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and
15 Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) for
16 construction and maintenance of school buildings,
17 hospitals and related structures and services.

18 (i) Shares in future tax impositions by the national
19 government.

20

21 **Section 104.** The Regional Government shall have the
22 power to create its own sources of revenues and to levy fees
23 and charges except the power to impose taxes, subject to
24 such guidelines and limitations as the Constitution and
25 this Act may provide, consistent with the basic policy of
26 local autonomy and which include but not limited to the
27 following:

28 (a) Revenue derived from operation of economic
29 enterprise established by the Regional Government.

30 (b) Fees and charges on services that the Regional
31 Government may provide.

32 (c) Appropriations and other budgetary aids from the
33 national government.

34 (d) Share in the proceeds from the development and
35 utilization of resources within the region.

36 (e) Share in revenues generated from the operation of
37 public utilities within the region as may be determined
38 by law.

39 (f) Net revenues from public works contracts
40 executed between the national government and the

1 autonomous region or its component provinces, cities,
2 municipalities, and barangays.

3 (g) Contributions to the autonomous region for the
4 cost of maintaining programs or areas that the
5 national government considers important to national
6 survival or sustainable development such as
7 reforestation or rehabilitation and protection of the
8 natural environment especially watersheds, declared
9 national heritage sites, historical sites, and such other
10 areas within the autonomous region consistent with
11 existing laws those applicable in the future.

12 (h) Block grants derived from economic agreements
13 or conventions authorized by the Regional
14 Government, donations, endowments, foreign
15 assistance, and other forms of aid, subject to the
16 Constitution and national laws.

17
18 **Section 105.** All corporations, partnerships, and other
19 entities, including government agencies, government-
20 owned and -controlled corporations directly engaged in
21 business in the region shall pay their corresponding taxes,
22 fees, and charges to the province, city, municipality or
23 barangays where such establishments are conducting their
24 business operations irrespective of the location of their
25 principal or main offices.

26
27 **Section 106.** Appropriations from the national government.

28 (a) *Regional line agencies.* The national government
29 shall continue to provide appropriations for the regular
30 operations and programs of line agencies in the region.
31 In addition, each national government agency shall
32 appropriate not less than five percent (5%) of its
33 nationwide lumpsums to fund priority programs in the
34 region.

35 (b) *Regional structure.* The national government shall
36 provide appropriations for the mandatory
37 organizational structure and positions of the Regional
38 Government.

39 (c) The Regional Government may access other special
40 purpose funds appropriated in the national budget.

1 **Section 107.** Eighty percent (80%) share of national fees
2 and charges collected within the region (e.g. DOTC, LTO,
3 NBI, NSO, BID, PEZA, DFA, DOH, DPWH, DENR, PRC,
4 DOT, etc.) shall be directly remitted to the regional treasury
5 and fifty percent (50%) of this share shall be automatically
6 retained by the collecting agencies to augment their regular
7 operating expenses.

8
9 **Section 108.** Donations or grants to the region to finance,
10 to provide for, or to be used in undertaking projects in
11 health, education, culture, youth and sports development,
12 human settlements, science and technology, and in
13 economic development, shall be deductible in full in
14 determining the taxable income of the donor or grantor.
15 Provided, that the validation and certification processes for
16 such donations or grants shall have been done according to
17 regional law.

18
19 **Section 109.** The Regional Government, in accordance
20 with the provisions of the Constitution and national laws
21 and upon the recommendation of the Regional
22 Development Board and ratification of the Regional
23 Assembly, shall evolve a system of economic agreements or
24 trade compacts to generate grants and foreign loans for
25 development of the

26
27 **Section 110.** The Regional Governor may contract loans
28 only in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution
29 and national laws and subject to the approval of the
30 Regional Assembly.

31
32 **Section 111.** The Regional Assembly shall have the power
33 to grant tax incentives or exemption on taxes which the
34 autonomous region is empowered under this Act to impose.
35 An ordinance granting incentives, exemptions or both shall
36 only be passed with the concurrence of a majority of all the
37 members of the Regional Assembly.

38
39 **Section 112.** The Regional Government may establish and
40 capitalize a Regional Development Bank which shall
41 administer its own funds. The bank shall be under the

1 supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and
2 under the general banking laws.

3
4 **Section 113.** The Regional Government shall utilize the
5 same fiscal and regulatory licensing standards required by
6 the national government.

7 **ARTICLE X**

8 **AGRICULTURE, AGRARIAN REFORM, TRADE AND**
9 **INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND COOPERATIVES**

10
11 **Section 114.** Consistent with applicable laws, the
12 Regional Government shall, as a basic policy, promote
13 agrarian reform and sustainable agricultural
14 development within the principles of social equity and
15 poverty alleviation, food security and food sufficiency,
16 global competitiveness, fair trade, rational use of resources
17 and sustainability.

18 (a) The Regional Government shall ensure that basic
19 agricultural support services and infrastructure be
20 accessible to the small and marginalized farmers and
21 fisher folks. It shall likewise promote agribusiness and
22 full employment based on a sound agricultural
23 development and agrarian reform.

24 (b) The Regional Government shall put special
25 emphasis on production towards self sufficiency of
26 staple food commodities and shall at all times
27 guarantee the availability, accessibility and
28 affordability of safe food commodities.

29 (c) The Regional Government shall work on the
30 improvement of the quality and value of raw and
31 processed agri-based products as a means to enhance
32 competitiveness of the agriculture and fisheries sectors
33 in the domestic and global markets.

34 (d) The Regional Government shall formulate and
35 implement measures to protect the farmers from
36 unfair trade practices and unfair competition.

37 (e) The Regional Government shall ensure the
38 equitable and rational distribution of public resources
39 and investments in order to obtain the optimum

1 returns on investments and to benefit a greater
2 number of constituents.

3 (f) The Regional Government shall always consider
4 the limited carrying capacity of the region's natural
5 and agricultural resources in the development of
6 agricultural and fisheries programs and interventions.

7 **Section 115.** The Regional Government shall give top
8 priority to the conservation, protection, utilization and
9 development of water resources for agriculture, fisheries
10 development, domestic water supply and power
11 development. It shall enact appropriate legislation which
12 shall enhance, develop, conserve, and protect natural
13 fishery resources especially on species endemic to the
14 Cordillera.

15
16 **Section 116.** The Regional Government shall recognize,
17 promote, and protect the rights and welfare of fisher folks,
18 their associations and cooperatives. The provinces and
19 cities concerned shall support to subsistence fisher folk
20 through adequate funds, appropriate technology and
21 research, marketing assistance, and other support services
22 like fishery processing facilities and access to credit.

23
24 **Section 117.** Towards the development of healthy, and
25 environmentally sound, humane and just communities, the
26 Regional Government shall:

27 (a) Pursue a multidisciplinary research, development
28 and extension activities to produce and promote
29 technologies and invent machinery and facilities, that
30 will be used to improve productivity and product
31 quality, reduce cost of production, enhance value-
32 addition and improve processing, and enhance
33 abilities to protect the environment and agricultural
34 resources.

35 (b) Initiate, encourage and give highest priority
36 support to small and medium agribusiness enterprises
37 and industries with linkages to agriculture. It shall
38 ensure the allocation of adequate public investments
39 to establish adequate support agricultural
40 infrastructure and facilities to sustain such ventures.

1 (c) Formulate and implement product standards and
2 regulatory rules that will ensure the production,
3 processing, distribution and marketing of safe and
4 globally-competitive products, and simultaneously
5 promote environmental conservation.

6 (d) Ensure that all sectors involved in the production,
7 processing and marketing of food and non-food
8 products shall strictly adhere to appropriate existing
9 laws and regulations on the proper utilization and
10 disposal of synthetic and chemical inputs and
11 materials, and industrial and toxic wastes. Relative to
12 this, the Regional Government shall pursue and
13 encourage organic methods of agriculture.

14
15 **Section 118.** To promote investments and employment
16 and to prevent flight of capital and labor from the region,
17 the Regional Government shall adopt measures:

18 (a) Against monopolies, cartels and unfair
19 competition in public utilities, development, trading
20 and similar concerns. It may, in the interest of regional
21 welfare and security, establish and operate pioneering
22 public utilities. Upon payment of just compensation, it
23 may transfer the ownership of such utilities to
24 cooperatives or other collective organizations.

25 (b) To initiate, encourage and support
26 industrialization in the region, taking into account the
27 culture and capabilities of the people of the area to
28 control or manage their resources, the ecological needs
29 of the area and the protection, conservation and
30 development of resources.

31
32 **Section 119.** Consistent with the preservation of cultural
33 heritage and the protection of ecology, the Regional
34 Government shall promote eco-cultural tourism within the
35 region. Sites with historical, scientific, cultural significance
36 including natural and man-made landmarks and scenic
37 vistas shall likewise be preserved, maintained and
38 protected.

39
40 **Section 120.** The Regional Government shall encourage,
41 promote and support the establishment and development
42 of economic zones, industrial and trade centers, and

1 airports, in strategic areas and growth centers in the
2 region, including the necessary support infrastructure in
3 accordance with land use and other environmental
4 considerations.

5
6 **Section 121.** The Regional Government shall, in
7 coordination with the local government units, encourage
8 investments, development, marketing and exportation of
9 indigenous and other local products in accordance with its
10 development goals and priorities.

11
12 **Section 122.** The Regional Government shall promote
13 cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development
14 Authority as tools for economic development, social justice,
15 and people empowerment to initiate policies and develop
16 mechanisms to enjoin the participation of the banking
17 sector and financial institutions in the delivery of credit
18 assistance for the establishment and building of rural
19 enterprises and small-medium enterprises (SMEs).

20 21 **ARTICLE XI**

22 **EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, LANGUAGE,** 23 **ARTS AND CULTURE, AND SPORTS**

24
25 **Section 123.** The Regional Government shall, consistent
26 with the Constitution and national laws, exercise legislative
27 powers over regional educational policies and preservation
28 of the cultural heritage in the autonomous region which
29 shall, among others, include:

30 (a) Establishment of educational institutions, colleges
31 and universities which shall enjoy fiscal and
32 administrative autonomy but subject to regional laws.
33 Existing educational institutions, colleges and
34 universities shall continue to be governed by their
35 respective charters.

36 (b) Development of curricular programs relevant to
37 the cultural heritage and responsive to the social,
38 economic, political and moral needs of the people and
39 the autonomous region.

1 (c) Adoption and enactment of educational policies
2 that shall recognize, support, develop and promote
3 existing indigenous system of learning.

4 (d) Creation of educational board that will supervise,
5 govern and intervene in the establishment, adoption
6 and implementation of educational policies and
7 programs of both formal and informal education and
8 all schools, colleges and universities in the region.

9
10 **Section 124.** The Regional Government shall ensure the
11 prioritization of budget allocation of five percent (5%) from
12 the annual income of the region to constitute the base of
13 the budget for education.

14
15 **Section 125.** Private educational institutions, colleges and
16 universities shall enjoy the protection and support of the
17 Regional Government. All revenues and assets of non-
18 stock, non-profit educational institutions used actually,
19 directly and exclusively for educational purposes shall be
20 exempt from taxes and duties.

21
22 **Section 126.** The Regional Government shall assist the
23 national government to provide free basic education and
24 shall likewise endeavor to provide free tertiary education
25 through scholarship programs, subsidies, research grants
26 and other incentives to poor, gifted, and deserving
27 individuals. Towards this end, there shall be created a
28 Regional Scholarship Committee for Education.

29
30 **Section 127.** The right of teachers, employees, students
31 and parents to organize themselves and to participate in
32 school policy and decision-making shall be guaranteed.

33
34 **Section 128.** Local government unit-paid teachers shall
35 be jointly supervised, administered and governed by LGU
36 and school heads.

37
38 **Section 129.** The level of compensation and other benefits
39 for regionally-paid government teachers and non-teaching

1 staff of the regional educational system in the region must
2 try to equal than the national standard

3

4 **Section 130.** The educational system in the region shall
5 develop a program, research, instruction and extension
6 that will promote consciousness and appreciation of the
7 ethnic identity of the people in the region and shall provide
8 a better understanding of their cultural heritage for the
9 attainment of national unity and harmony in all levels of
10 education. It shall provide, promote, enhance or adopt a
11 curriculum in all levels that includes Cordillera languages,
12 customs and traditions and other indigenous knowledge
13 systems and practices, as may be applicable.

14

15 **Section 131.** State colleges and universities.

16 (a) State colleges and universities in the region shall
17 form part of the regional educational sub-system of the
18 autonomous region and shall continue to enjoy fiscal
19 and institutional autonomy, continue to be governed
20 by their respective charters and enjoy support of the
21 Regional Government.

22 (b) The Regional Government shall be represented in
23 the board of regents or trustees in state universities
24 and colleges in the region.

25 (c) The budget of state colleges and universities in
26 the region while prepared separately shall form part
27 the budget of the Regional Government when
28 presented to congress for approval. The state colleges
29 and universities shall continue to receive funding from
30 the national government while the Regional
31 Government shall provide additional funding.

32 (d) The Regional Government shall capacitate state
33 colleges and universities in order to provide assistance
34 to regional development.

35

36 **Section 132.** Subject to the general supervision of the
37 Regional Government, all schools with charters shall
38 continue to be governed by their respective charters.

39

40 **Section 133.** The management of scientific and
41 indigenous research and appropriate technology on all

1 levels of education including research institutions shall be
2 given priority by the Regional Government.

3
4 **Section 134.** Incentives and safeguards for intellectual
5 property rights, and assistance in the registration of
6 patents and copyrights shall be accorded to Cordillera
7 artists, writers, scientists, researchers and inventors.

8
9 **Section 135.** The Regional Government shall retain
10 English and Filipino as a medium of instruction in all levels
11 of education. Consistent with its regional and cultural
12 identity, and whenever possible, it shall adopt a system of
13 multi-lingual or mother tongue-based approach in basic
14 education to strengthen and enrich the various languages
15 and dialects in the region as well as the national language
16 as maybe appropriate.

17
18 **Section 136.** The Regional Government shall design and
19 implement region-wide physical fitness, sports development
20 programs, and indigenous games and sports which shall be
21 a cooperative responsibility of the school, the community,
22 and the government.

23
24 **Section 137.** The Regional Government shall establish a
25 Regional Research Coordinating Council, which shall
26 harmonize the research and development efforts of the
27 academe and research institutions in the region.

28
29 **ARTICLE XII**
30 **SOCIAL, JUSTICE AND WELFARE**

31
32 **Section 138.** The Regional Government commits itself to
33 social protection and shall among other things, adopt
34 measures to:

- 35 (a) Empower and improve the quality of life of the
36 poor, disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerable
37 individuals, families, sectors and communities of the
38 region.

1 (b) Reduce or eradicate poverty to ensure that all
2 Cordillerans are free from all forms of deprivation,
3 vulnerability, and abuse. Towards this end, the
4 Regional Government shall organize a Cordillera Anti-
5 Poverty Council (CAPC) which shall formulate and
6 oversee the implementation of a comprehensive
7 regional anti-poverty framework.

8 (c) Create equal opportunities for assistance and
9 protection for all Cordillerans.

10 (d) Promote gender and development (GAD) through
11 the creation, adoption and sustainability of programs
12 and policies that are gender sensitive.

13 (e) Enact measures and develop programs that will
14 protect the people from any threat of violence and
15 exploitation, eliminate trafficking in persons and
16 mitigate pressures for involuntary migration and
17 servitude of persons, not only to support trafficked
18 persons but more importantly, to ensure their
19 recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into the
20 mainstream of society.

21
22 **Section 139.** The Regional Government shall undertake
23 steps to protect the labor sector and promote equality of
24 employment opportunities for all. Towards this end, it
25 shall, among other things, provide for:

26 (a) Participation of the Regional Government in the
27 regional wage board in working out periodic
28 adjustments and rational standardization of
29 compensation rates to ensure a sustainable and
30 decent wage for all workers.

31 (b) Profit and productivity gain-sharing schemes that
32 recognize the right of workers to a just share in the
33 profits and productivity gains of businesses, provide
34 incentives thereof, and the right of the enterprise to
35 reasonable returns on investments.

36 (c) Protection of workers against unhealthy and
37 unsafe working conditions.

38 (d) Legislation for the benefit and welfare of domestic
39 helpers.

40 (e) Mandatory corporate social responsibility towards
41 employees and host community.

1

2 **Section 140.** The Regional Government shall promote the
3 hiring of qualified Cordillerans in government projects and
4 private businesses located in the autonomous region.

5

6 **Section 141.** The Regional Government recognizes health
7 as a basic human right and the attainment, maintenance
8 and protection thereof shall be its responsibility. It affirms
9 health as an instrument for and a product of socio-
10 economic development. For this purpose, it shall, among
11 other things:

12 (a) Establish, maintain, and support an effective
13 health care delivery system utilizing primary health
14 care as a comprehensive and integrated approach.

15 (b) Ensure that the health care system is governed by
16 the principles of service, social justice and equity.

17 (c) Promote health knowledge and skills that will
18 enable its people to take responsibility for their health.

19 (d) Give relevant training and appropriate standards
20 for health workers and professionals.

21 (e) Establish and maintain an effective food and drug
22 regulatory system which shall provide for the adoption
23 of an essential drug list, encourage the use of generic
24 medicines or drugs, and promote the use of herbal
25 medicines and indigenous health resources.

26 (f) Conduct research on traditional healing methods
27 and promote indigenous health care practices.

28 (g) Evolve financing schemes to effectively lessen the
29 costs of health care without sacrificing the quality of
30 health care services including the prioritization in the
31 annual budget of at least five percent (5%) to form the
32 base of health budget.

33

34 **Section 142.** The Regional Government shall, in
35 consonance with the Constitution, guarantee the rights of
36 all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and
37 negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including
38 those provided by law.

1 **Section 143.** The Regional Government shall:

2 (a) Promote the well-being of differently-abled
3 persons, the mentally handicapped, the elderly, the
4 homeless, widows and orphans, retirees, and veterans,
5 adult and juvenile criminal offenders and victims. and

6 (b) Assist victims of calamities, abused and
7 depressed children and women in crisis situations,
8 including victims of adult and juvenile criminal
9 offenders.

10
11 **Section 144.** The Regional Government shall adopt a
12 social integration program responsive to the needs of rebel
13 returnees including adult and juvenile criminal offenders.

14
15 **Section 145.** The Regional Government shall adopt
16 insurance and social security measures responsive to the
17 needs of its people to supplement existing privileges.

18
19 **Section 146.** The Regional Government, in cooperation
20 with the private sector, shall promote housing programs
21 where needed, which shall be financed under liberal credit
22 terms and shall utilize indigenous materials, architecture
23 and technology. Participation of housing cooperatives to
24 administer the projects shall be encouraged.

25
26 **Section 147.** The Regional Government shall recognize
27 and strengthen the role of the Cordillera women in nation-
28 building. It shall ensure the full implementation of the
29 Magna Carta of Women and all other existing national laws
30 that promote the welfare and protection of women.

31
32 **Section 148.** The Regional Government shall establish a
33 comprehensive program on youth development, create the
34 structures to implement the same and appropriate
35 adequate funds to provide support for the program.

36
37 **Section 149.** The Regional Government shall promote and
38 support duly established peoples' organizations and
39 encourage the formation of organizations, especially those
40 of the underprivileged.

1 **ARTICLE XIII**

2 **PEACE AND ORDER**

3
4 **Section 150.** The Regional Government shall promote and
5 maintain peace and order and public safety in the region. It
6 shall not allow private armies.

7
8 **Section 151.** The defense and security of the autonomous
9 region shall be the responsibility of the national
10 government with due recognition to recommendations from
11 the Regional Government.

12
13 **Section 152.** Consistent with the Local Government Code
14 and other relevant laws, the Regional Government shall
15 have co-management over peace-keeping programs and
16 initiatives and undertake close coordination with the
17 Philippine National Police as well as the Philippine Army,
18 when the need arises.

19
20 **Section 153.** The provisions of the preceding sections
21 notwithstanding, the Regional Governor may request the
22 President of the Philippines to call upon the Armed Forces
23 of the Philippines:

24 (a) To prevent or suppress lawlessness, violence,
25 invasion or rebellion, when the public safety so
26 requires, in accordance with the provisions of the
27 Constitution.

28 (b) To suppress the danger to or breach of peace in the
29 autonomous region, when the police forces of the
30 autonomous region are not able to do so.

31 (c) To avert any imminent danger to public order and
32 security in the autonomous region.

33
34 **Section 154.** The Regional Government shall strengthen
35 and enhance indigenous institutions or systems as may be
36 applicable and found to be acceptable and effective in the
37 promotion of social, political, economic and peace and
38 order in the region. It shall provide for a system of
39 incorporating indigenous practices in conflict resolution
40 wherever and whenever applicable.

1

2 **Section 155.** The Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-
3 COR) shall remain as the primary peace keeping force of
4 the autonomous region under the administration and
5 control of the National Police Commission with the
6 supervision of the Regional Governor. However, the PRO-
7 COR shall be headed by a Regional Police Director who
8 shall be assisted by regional deputy directors and
9 preferably Cordillerans. The Regional Police Director shall
10 be chosen from among five (5) nominees to be
11 recommended by the Regional Governor.

12

ARTICLE XIV

13

GENERAL PROVISIONS

14

15 **Section 156.** This Organic Act shall be officially
16 promulgated in Filipino and English and translated into the
17 languages or dialects widely spoken in the autonomous
18 region. In case of conflict, the English text shall prevail.

19

20 **Section 157.** For purposes of qualification for any elective
21 or appointive public office in the Cordillera Autonomous
22 Region, the person to be elected or appointed must have
23 domiciled in the region for at least two (2) years
24 immediately preceding the election or appointment.

25

26 **Section 158.** The Congress may, upon recommendation of
27 the Regional Assembly, adopt a new name for the
28 Cordillera Autonomous Region.

29

30 **Section 159.** The Regional Government shall have a
31 regional emblem and hymn.

1 **ARTICLE XV**

2 **AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS**

3
4 **Section 160.** Any amendment to, or revision of this Act
5 may be made by Congress upon recommendation of the
6 majority of all members of the Regional Assembly.

7
8 **Section 161.** Any amendment to or revision of this
9 Organic Act shall become effective when ratified by a
10 majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite called for the
11 purpose which shall be held not earlier than sixty (60) days
12 not later than ninety (90) days after the approval of such
13 amendment or revision.

14 **ARTICLE XVI**

15 **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

16
17 **Section 162.** Unless otherwise provided by law, the date
18 of election of the first set of officials of the Regional
19 Government shall be in the next local election following the
20 ratification of this Organic Act in the plebiscite.
21 Subsequent elections shall coincide with the nationwide
22 local elections.

23
24 **Section 163.** Coverage of the Plebiscite

25 (a) The coverage of the plebiscite shall be the
26 provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga,
27 Mountain Province, the chartered City of Baguio and
28 the component City of Tabuk, Kalinga.

29 (b) The provinces or city which vote unfavorably in
30 the plebiscite shall revert to their mother region prior
31 to the establishment of the Cordillera Administrative
32 Region.

33
34 **Section 164.** Except for the regional line agencies, the
35 Cordillera Executive Board, the Cordillera Regional
36 Assembly, and the Cordillera Bodong Administration as a

1 commission, created under Executive Order No. 220, and
2 the Cordillera Regional Development Council created by
3 Executive Order 30 after the de-activation of the above-
4 mentioned Cordillera bodies, shall cease to exist
5 immediately upon the assumption of office of the Regional
6 Governor.

7 For this purpose, all their funds, properties and assets
8 shall automatically be transferred to the Regional
9 Government. Their employees shall be given priority in the
10 filling up of available vacant positions in the Regional
11 Government, subject to civil service laws, rules and
12 regulations.

13

14 **Section 165.** The seat of the Regional Government of CAR
15 shall be determined by the majority of all members of the
16 Regional Assembly: Provided, however, that the interim
17 seat of the Regional Government shall be in the City of
18 Baguio.

19

20 **Section 166.** Within one (1) month from the organization
21 of the Regional Government, an Oversight Committee
22 composed of the executive secretary as Chairperson, the
23 secretary of the Department of Budget and Management,
24 the Cordillera Regional Governor, the presiding officer of
25 the Cordillera Legislative Assembly, two (2) senators to be
26 designated by the Senate President, two (2) representatives
27 to be designated by the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives, the incumbent Chairperson and Co-
29 Chairperson of the Regional Development Council, the
30 Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local
31 Government, the Chairperson of NCIP as members, shall be
32 organized for the purpose of supervising the transfer to the
33 autonomous region of such powers and functions vested in
34 it by this Organic Act and the appropriations of the offices
35 or agencies including the transfer of properties, assets and
36 liabilities, and such personnel as may be necessary. and of
37 identifying the other line agencies and government-owned
38 or -controlled corporations that may be absorbed by the
39 Regional Government and, with respect to the latter, also
40 the terms and conditions of their turnover.

41 Within six (6) months after its organization, the
42 oversight committee shall submit its report and
43 recommendation to the President of the Philippines who
44 shall act on the report and recommendations within ninety

1 (90) days after receipt thereof: Provided, however, that if
2 the President fails to act within said period, the
3 recommendations of the Oversight Committee shall be
4 deemed approved.

5
6 **Section 167.** Over and above that regularly given to Local
7 Government Units and regional line agencies, the national
8 government shall continue its annual allotment to the
9 Regional Government. In addition, the national government
10 shall provide the Cordillera Autonomous Region an annual
11 assistance of Ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) for the
12 first five (5) years and Five billion pesos
13 (P5,000,000,000.00) for the next five (5) years to be
14 allocated in the following manner:

15 (a) Twenty percent (20%) for the Regional
16 Government for regional infrastructure, livelihood and
17 revenue generating projects.

18 (b) Ten percent (10%) for each province and highly
19 urbanized city for infrastructure, livelihood and
20 revenue generating projects.

21 (c) Four percent (4%) for a component city.

22 (d) Six percent (6) shall remain with the Regional
23 Government as Trust Fund.

24 Provided, That annually, each barangay shall receive
25 not less than One Percent (1%) and each municipality shall
26 receive not less than Ten Percent (10%) to be taken from
27 the share of the province where they are located.

28 In the case of a chartered city, barangays shall take
29 their shares from the city government. Provided, that the
30 projects shall be in accordance with the Regional and Local
31 Development Plans and Budgets as approved by their
32 respective legislative bodies.

33
34 **Section 168.** Disclosure and transparency. Funds shall be
35 available exclusively for the specific purpose for which they
36 have been appropriated. Any officer of the Cordillera
37 Autonomous Government whose duty permits or requires
38 the possession, custody and disbursement of the funds
39 shall be accountable and responsible thereof. Financial
40 records shall be kept, audited and made public annually or
41 as often as maybe necessary.

1

2 **Section 169.** The share of each local government unit
3 shall be released without need of any further action,
4 directly to the provincial, city, municipal or barangay
5 treasurer, as the case may be on a quarterly basis within
6 five (5) days after the end of each quarter, and which shall
7 not be subject to any lien or holdback that may be imposed
8 by the Regional Government for whatever purpose.

9

10 **Section 170.** The creation of the Cordillera Autonomous
11 Region shall take effect when approved by a majority of the
12 votes cast by the constituent units provided in Section 2,
13 Article I of this Act, in a plebiscite which shall be held not
14 earlier than two(2) months but not later than nine (10)
15 months after this Act takes effect: provided, that only the
16 provinces and cities voting favorably in such plebiscite
17 shall be included in the CAR.

18 The sum of One Hundred Twenty Five million pesos
19 (PhP125,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the
20 following purposes:

21 (a) Ten million pesos (PhP10,000,000.00) to be
22 allotted to the Regional Development Council for the
23 conduct of a well-coordinated Inter-Sectoral and
24 Inter-agency Regional, Provincial, Municipal and
25 Barangay information campaign on this Act.

26 (b) Fifty million pesos (PhP50,000.00) shall be
27 equitably divided among the local government units.

28 (c) Twenty Five million pesos (PhP25,000,000.00) to
29 be allotted to the Commission on Elections.

30 (d) Forty million pesos (PhP40,000,000.00) to be
31 allotted to the Regional Government for its initial
32 organizational requirements.

33 The Regional Development Council with the assistance
34 of the Philippine Information Agency, and in consultation
35 with the provincial/city governments, the Cordillera
36 Association of Regional Executives, and other key
37 stakeholders, shall determine the manner of campaigning
38 and the deputization of government agencies, non-
39 government organizations and other stakeholders for
40 purposes of conducting a well-coordinated information
41 campaign.

1 The amount of One Hundred Twenty Five million pesos
2 (PhP125,000,000.00) as herein appropriated shall be
3 charged against the contingent fund. Any deficiency thereof
4 shall be taken from any available funds of the national
5 government.

6
7 **Section 171.** Any provision or part of this Organic Act
8 found to be invalid or unconstitutional shall not invalidate
9 the provisions or parts thereof not affected thereby.

10
11 **Section 172.** All laws inconsistent with this Organic Act
12 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13 **ARTICLE XVII**

14 **EFFECTIVITY**

15
16 **Section 173.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15)
17 days following its complete publication in at least two (2)
18 national newspapers and all local newspapers of general
19 circulation in the autonomous region.

20
21 Approved,