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SENATE
S.B. No. **2426**

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Prepared jointly by the Committees on Cultural Communities and Finance,
with Senator Loren Legarda as author thereof

**AN ACT TO INCLUDE ETHNIC ORIGIN IN THE NATIONAL SURVEY
CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Ethnic Origin Act of 2014.”

2 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to recognize and promote
3 the rights of indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural communities within the framework of
4 national unity and development. The State shall give the highest priority to the enactment of
5 measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social,
6 economic and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities.

7 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean the
8 following:

9 (a) “Ethnic Origin or Ethnicity” includes nationality and ethno-linguistic origin.

10 (b) “Indigenous Peoples (IPs) or Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)” shall, as
11 provided under Section 3 (h) of Chapter II of RA No. 8371 or the “Indigenous
12 People’s Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997”, refer to a group of people or homogenous
13 societies identified by self-ascription by others, who have continuously lived as an
14 organized community on communally-bounded and defined territory, and who
15 have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and
16 utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions,
17 and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political,
18 social, and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures,
19 became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICCs and IPs
20 shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their
21 descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest
22 or colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures,

1 or the establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their
2 own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been
3 displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their
4 ancestral domains;

5 **Sec. 4. Duty of the Philippine Statistics Authority.** – It shall be the duty of the
6 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in coordination with the National Commission on
7 Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), to ensure the employment of enumerators, or the deployment of
8 NCIP employees, who are knowledgeable of the different IPs and ICCs of the Philippines,
9 and the language and appropriate manner of asking culturally-sensitive questions to IPs and
10 ICCs, in gathering data on Ethnic Origin during the conduct of the national survey and
11 national census. Furthermore, the PSA should ensure that all surveys and documents issued
12 by their office should be culturally sensitive.

13 **Sec. 5. Duty of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.** – It shall be the
14 duty of the NCIP to conduct the proper training of PSA enumerators, including the barangay
15 indigenous guides, all over the country to ensure that they have adequate knowledge of the
16 different IPs and ICCs in their area, their language, way of life, and culture, and the manner
17 of asking them culturally-sensitive questions.

18 An indigenous guide in each barangay, or any officer or member of the concerned
19 Local Culture and Arts Council or Local Tourism Council, as the case may be, shall also be
20 trained by the NCIP, who may assist the city or municipal government in the conduct of
21 cultural mapping within a local government unit.

22 **Sec. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount of one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000)
23 that shall be given to PSA for the training of PSA enumerators shall be charged against any
24 available appropriation in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year of its
25 implementation. Thereafter, such sums as be necessary shall be included in the yearly
26 General Appropriations Act.

27 **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The PSA, with the assistance of the
28 NCIP, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within 90 days
29 from the effectivity of this Act.

30 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of the Act is declared void
31 or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such
32 declaration.

33 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – Any provision of law or regulations inconsistent
34 herewith is hereby repealed, revoked, or modified accordingly.

1 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
2 in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3 Approved,

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