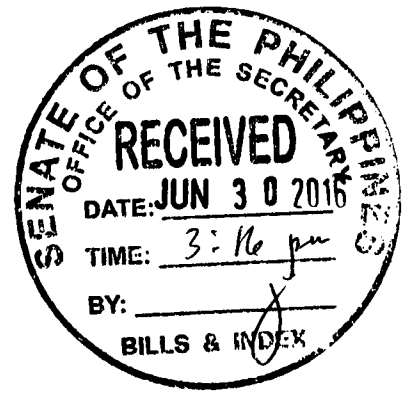


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S. B. No. 74

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MINDANAO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SETTING
THE GUIDELINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We are all praying, working and striving for a just, inclusive and lasting peace. Peace and development have a symbiotic relationship. When there is peace, there is more development; and where there is development, the more likely that peace will last.

History and experience have taught us time and again that lasting peace cannot be achieved through a peace agreement or settlement with one rebel group. Peace agreements have to be inclusive to be effective. Where there is peace, development is not far behind. There is a need to address the Mindanaoans' legitimate grievances and ensure respect for and promotion of the rights and interests of all Filipinos, all Mindanaoans, regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, and religion.

Achieving a just, genuine and lasting peace and development is a long and arduous process that addresses not only historical social inequity and injustice suffered by specific groups, but must also address the present social, political, and economic issues of the entire region and all its people. This is especially true in the modern world of nation-building with special focus on social, political and economic integration.

Thus, for genuine and lasting peace and development to be achieved and sustained, the framework must be broad-based and inclusive, not be selective and insular. True peace and development in Mindanao can only be achieved through a framework that is **JUST, INCLUSIVE and LASTING.**

JUST - Justice is an essential ingredient in any community. Equity and fairness should be the guiding principles in the prioritization and allocation of resources; settlement of disputes; remuneration and compensation of loss and damage; and imposition of sanctions and penalties.

INCLUSIVE - Each stakeholder or affected individual, family and community should be given the opportunity to be informed and consulted. Each shall be given due consideration and sufficient opportunity to share his/her/its input, position and stand in the formulation and implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules, and other norms of governance.

LASTING - Laws, policies, programs, rules, and other norms governing the conduct of stakeholders and affected parties should withstand temporary circumstances, changing conditions, and availability of resources. Peace agreements forged and tempered through the principles and justice and inclusivity should result in a lasting and not temporary peace, and lead to total human development and progress that will withstand changes in economic conditions, environmental situations, government leadership, legal amendments, and other changes within the region.

We are at a moment in our history where we can choose to emerge from years of strife and conflict to a just, inclusive and lasting peace. The proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law gives the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) several millions of lump sum funds in the form of a blank check. And with this blank check comes the risk of fund diversion, corruption, and waste. We have just

won a fight in our battle against corruption by eliminating the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), otherwise known as the pork barrel system. We must not let this happen again. We should start anew by introducing honest-to-goodness reforms in the proposed Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) previously projected that the funding allocation for the Bangsamoro Government under the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law will amount to a total of Five Hundred Twenty-Eight Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 528 Billion) spread over a period of six (6) years from 2015 to 2020. The beneficiaries of the proposed Bangsamoro Government will most likely be led by seasoned rebel returnees who are all too eager, however ill- or unprepared they are, to return to and embrace the rule of law. For sure, even the most battle-scarred veteran will still be considered neophytes in governance and face temptations and challenges thrown at even the most idealistic veterans.

Instead of rewarding only the rebels and their supporters, we should all the more be inclusive by reward those peace-loving citizens who have stood by the Philippine Constitution and government yet equally suffered the horrors and effects of war and terrorism. Funds of the national government should instead be used to implement a comprehensive Mindanao Peace and Development Plan, which will fund and propose priority development projects in the fields of transport, infrastructure, tourism, education, health, small businesses, and agricultural and rural development, bearing in mind the rights and interests of all Mindanaoans.

The results of the 2014 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) released by the Philippine Statistics Authority on March 5, 2015 showed poverty incidence among Filipinos rising to 25.8% in the first half of 2014, from 24.6% in the first half of 2013. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has consistently figured in the bottom poorest cluster of the regions with a poverty incidence among families between 42% and 47% in the first semesters of 2006, 2009, and 2012.¹ Out of the twenty (20) poorest provinces in the Philippines, thirteen (13) are located in Mindanao. Out of the 13, only two (2) are located in ARMM, which is the core territory for the proposed Bangsamoro area.

For many years, reducing poverty and achieving lasting peace for inclusive growth have become the main challenges in Mindanao.² According to the World Bank (WB), on average, the annual economic cost of the war in Mindanao in 1975-1982 was around one percent (1%) of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for central and southwestern Mindanao, and one half of 1% for the Philippines or a total of about \$200 Million. The WB states that, assuming a much lower direct economic conflict cost during the "low-intensity" conflict years 1983-96, and using a discount rate of 7.5%, the direct output loss from the Mindanao conflict during 1970-2001 can be roughly estimated at between two (2) to three (3) Billion US dollars.

According to National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director-General Arsenio Balisacan, Mindanao has the potential to spur economic growth, citing its actual and potential contributions to the country's economic output. For instance, Mindanao contributes 14.4% to the national economic output; 37.4% of the country's agriculture, forestry and fisheries are in Mindanao. Mindanao accounts for 60% of the country's agro-based exports and 50% of the country's major crops.

Even WB proclaims that the Philippines is no longer the sick man of East Asia, but a rising tiger. According to Motoo Konishi, WB Country Director for the Philippines, "there is macroeconomic stability, and the fiscal situation of the government is sound and improving."³ It is clear that the Philippines has a good potential for further growth and equitable and sustainable development. However, the upcoming ASEAN integration poses challenges to development in Mindanao. Thus, there is a need for a cohesive, comprehensive and consultative plan for development.

¹http://www.nscb.gov.ph/secstat/d_income.asp; <http://www.rappler.com/business/27276-poorest-provinces-philippines>

²<http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2013/04/10/philippines-autonomous-region-in-muslim-mindanao-social-fund-project>

³<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/02/06/905371/philippines-asias-rising-tiger-world-bank>

Taking off from the *Mindanao 2020 Peace and Development Framework Plan (2011-2030)* spearheaded by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and the *Strategic Development Framework 2010-2020* prepared by the NEDA, and premised on the need to facilitate a level playing field and to put up effective enforcement mechanisms for promoting the same, this proposed legislation seeks to establish by law a comprehensive Mindanao Peace and Development Plan (MPDP) with guaranteed funding for at least ten years -- definitive national government support to harness the potentials of Mindanao and spur economic development in the region.

The proposed comprehensive MPDP identifies the development goals and objectives, pinpoints the strategic policy framework to attain them, and provides definitive national government support by providing additional funding -- over and above the regular amounts provided under the annual General Appropriations Act -- for the specific priority programs/projects enumerated in each of the following areas:

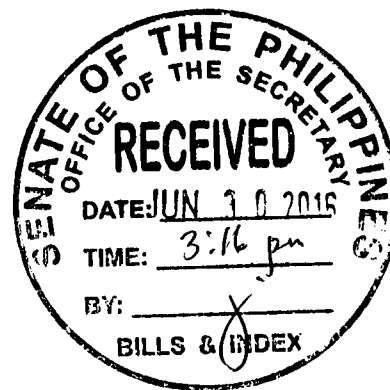
- (a) construction and/or rehabilitation of an integrated and sustainable inter-modal transport and logistics network, including an integrated Mindanao railway system, high-standard highways, and strategically-located, climate-resilient airports, seaports, and land transport stations;
- (b) promotion and preservation of Mindanao's tourism potential, by providing funding for tourism-related infrastructure and/or grants/ loans for small tourism-related businesses;
- (c) education reform through the provision of modern facilities for public education institutions, and the establishment of a system of free tertiary education and/or student financial assistance for deserving and qualified Mindanaoans;
- (d) universal health care program, through the establishment of specialty hospitals, and additional health facilities manned with qualified and competent personnel, equipped with the necessary clinical and laboratory facilities, and compliant with the Department of Health's list of minimum services relevant to its classification;
- (e) empowering and promoting businesses, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), through capacity-building programs, provision of micro-finance services as a source of capital, and the development of effective policies and programs, similar to the 300 Global Stars program of South Korea, the One Tambon, One Product policy of Thailand, and the Financial Facilitator Programme of Singapore; and
- (f) agricultural modernization and rural development, through capacity-building program for farmers, research and development programs, farm modernization programs, crop insurance programs, halal food processing technologies; shared service facilities; and access to credit program for small farmers.

This proposed bill will hopefully bring about the much-needed reform and development in Mindanao region, ensure just, inclusive, and lasting peace in the area, and effect real change in the lives of all Mindanaoans.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO
Senator



SENATE

S. B. No. 74

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MINDANAO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SETTING
THE GUIDELINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Mindanao Peace and
2 **Development Act of 2016".**

3
4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.**-It is the policy of the State to promote JUST,
5 INCLUSIVE, and LASTING peace as a catalyst to ensure the prosperity and independence of the
6 nation and free the people from poverty. The State shall adopt policies that will provide adequate
7 social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life.
8

9 The State recognizes that true peace and development in Mindanao can only be achieved if
10 the framework is: (1) JUST, where equity and fairness are the guiding principles in the
11 prioritization and allocation of resources; settlement of disputes; remuneration and compensation
12 of loss and damage; and imposition of sanctions and penalties; (2) INCLUSIVE, where each
13 stakeholder or affected individual, family and community is given the opportunity to be informed
14 and consulted, and his/her/its position and stand is considered in the formulation and
15 implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules, and other norms of governance; and (3) LASTING,
16 where laws, policies, programs, rules, and other norms governing the conduct of stakeholders and
17 affected parties withstand temporary circumstances, changing conditions, and depletable
18 resources.
19

20 It is the policy of the State to establish a peace and development framework for Mindanao,
21 with guaranteed funding for at least ten (10) years, to harness the potentials of Mindanao and spur
22 economic development in the region.
23

24 **Section 3. Nature and Scope.** The Mindanao Peace and Development Plan (MPDP) shall
25 include, but not be limited to, a socio-economic framework for the following concerns:
26

- 27 (a) Integrated Sustainable Transport System
28 (b) Comprehensive Tourism Development
29 (c) Education Reform
30 (d) Universal Health Care Program
31 (e) Industry Strengthening, MSME Promotion and Development
32 (f) Agricultural Modernization and Rural Development
33

34 **Section 4. Mindanao Railway Development Program.**- There is hereby established a
35 Mindanao Railway Development Program, with an initial funding of *One Hundred Fifty Billion*
36 *Philippine Pesos* (PhP 150 Billion), for the construction, development and/or rehabilitation of an
37 integrated and sustainable Mindanao railway system and supporting inter-modal transport and
38 logistics network, including the conduct of studies.
39

1 The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is further mandated make
2 necessary preparations for the establishment of the Mindanao Railway Authority, and/or other
3 coordinating bodies.
4

5 **Section 5. Mindanao Sustainable and Integrated Transportation Development**
6 **Program.**— There is hereby established a Mindanao Sustainable and Integrated Transportation
7 Development Program, which shall provide a framework, mechanism, and funding for the
8 establishment of a reliable, efficient and climate-resilient infrastructure system featuring, among
9 others, an integrated and sustainable inter-modal transport and logistics network, with high-
10 standard highways and strategically-located, climate-resilient ports, airports and land transport
11 stations that allow faster movement of people, goods and services and seamlessly connect
12 Mindanao with the rest of the country and the world.
13

14 The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is hereby mandated to
15 study the establishment of a Mindanao Bus Authority and the Mindanao Sustainable Transportation
16 Coordinating Council, which shall include representatives of the Civil Aviation Authority of the
17 Philippines (CAAP), the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), the Maritime Industry Authority
18 (MARINA), and relevant airport and seaport authorities. The department is also mandated to work
19 with relevant national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, local
20 government units, and/or duly prequalified private contractors through any of the contractual
21 arrangements authorized under law to ensure the implementation of the following projects, and
22 their corresponding guaranteed funding:
23

- 24 a. at least Five Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 5 Billion) per year, or a minimum
25 of **Fifty Billion Philippine Pesos** (PhP 50 Billion) in ten years, for the development and
26 upgrade of domestic and international airports in Mindanao;
- 27 b. at least Five Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 5 Billion) per year, or a minimum of **Fifty**
28 **Billion Philippine Pesos** (PhP 50 Billion) in ten years, for the development and upgrade
29 of domestic and international seaports and Roll On and Roll Off (RORO) transportation
30 facilities; and
- 31 c. at least Five Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 5 Billion) per year, or a minimum of **Fifty**
32 **Billion Philippine Pesos** (PhP 50 Billion) in ten years, for the development and upgrade
33 of highways, roads and bridges, to seamlessly connecting railway stations, seaports,
34 airports, and other transportation hubs.
35

36 **Section 6. Mindanao Tourism Development Program.** — There is hereby established a
37 Mindanao Tourism Development Program, which shall promote, develop and preserve Mindanao's
38 tourism potential, giving due regard to its rich and varied array of tourist attractions.
39

40 The program shall have a guaranteed funding of at least Ten Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP
41 10 Billion) per year, or a minimum of **One Hundred Billion Philippine Pesos** (PhP 100 Billion) in
42 ten years, which the Department of Tourism (DOT), through the relevant local government units, is
43 mandated to spend for tourism-related infrastructure and for grants/loans for micro, small and
44 medium enterprises with tourism-related businesses. The department is mandated to work with
45 the relevant national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, and
46 local government units in conducting a study on the establishment of a Mindanao Historical
47 Institute and a Mindanao Cultural Center.
48

49 **Section 7. Mindanao Education Development Program.** — There is hereby established
50 a Mindanao Education Development Program, with a guaranteed funding of at least Ten Billion
51 Philippine Pesos (PhP 10 Billion) per year, or a minimum of **One Hundred Billion Philippine Pesos**
52 (PhP 100 Billion) in ten years, for the implementation of programs and projects to attain the goal of
53 maximum access to quality, relevant, and culturally sensitive formal, non-formal, alternative, and
54 indigenous education marked by adequate and modern facilities, trained personnel, sufficient
55 resources, competitive programs and responsive curriculums that affirm both local cultures and
56 universal values, are relevant to real life struggles and are attuned to global challenges. The
57 guaranteed funding provided herein shall be over and above the regular amounts provided to the
58 Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical
59 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the various State Universities and Colleges
60 (SUCs), and other education-related programs of other government agencies under the annual
61 General Appropriations Act.

1
2 Towards this end, the DepEd is hereby mandated to continue providing the necessary
3 facilities for public elementary and secondary schools in Mindanao through its Enhanced Basic
4 Education (K-to-12) Program; the CHED is hereby mandated to establish a system of free tertiary
5 education in state universities and colleges for selected priority programs/courses necessary for
6 the economic development of Mindanao; and both agencies are mandated to work with relevant
7 national government agencies, local government units, and private entities in establishing a system
8 of student financial assistance in the form of scholarship, student loans or grants-in-aid for
9 deserving and qualified Mindanaoans. The DepEd and CHED are also mandated to formulate
10 relevant policies, programs, activities and projects towards developing and implementing a revised
11 curriculum that shall require the study of Mindanao history, culture and tradition in all levels in the
12 region.

13
14 **Section 8. Mindanao Health Development Program.** - There is hereby established a
15 Mindanao Health Development Program, which provides assured funding to attain the goal of good
16 health and overall well-being among the entire Mindanaoan population, where families enjoy easy
17 access to responsive universal health care systems, essential and basic health packages, and health
18 financing that are appropriate to local contexts and cultures.

19
20 The Department of Health (DOH) is hereby mandated to work with the relevant national
21 government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, and local government units
22 in ensuring that the projects identified below are properly implemented. To ensure the attainment
23 of the objectives identified in the preceding paragraph, the Mindanao Health Development
24 Program is hereby provided a guaranteed funding of at least Ten Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 10
25 Billion) per year, or a minimum of *One Hundred Billion Philippine Pesos* (PhP 100 Billion) in ten
26 years, subdivided as follows:

- 27
28 a. at least *Sixty Billion Philippine Pesos* (PhP 60Billion) for the establishment of a
29 Mindanao Heart Center, a Mindanao Lung Center, a Mindanao Kidney and Transplant
30 Center, a Mindanao Orthopedic Center, a Mindanao Children's Hospital, and a Mindanao
31 Center for Cancer Research and Treatment; and
32 b. at least *Forty Billion Pesos* (PhP 40Billion) to complete the requirement of establishing
33 a *barangay health center/station in each barangay*, a rural health unit equipped with a
34 modern laboratory in each city/municipality, a Level One (1) hospital in each
35 congressional district, a Level Two (2) hospital in each province, and a Level Three (3)
36 hospital in each of the regions in Mindanao. Each health facility shall be manned with
37 qualified and competent personnel, equipped with the necessary clinical and laboratory
38 facilities, and compliant with the DOH's list of minimum services relevant to its
39 classification.

40
41 The guaranteed funding provided herein shall be over and above the regular amounts
42 provided to the DOH under the annual General Appropriations Act, and in addition to, not in lieu of,
43 the Mindanao health programs funded from sin tax revenues.

44
45 **Section 9. Mindanao Business Enterprises Development Program.** - There is hereby
46 established a Mindanao Enterprises Development Program, with a guaranteed funding of at least
47 Ten Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 10 Billion) per year, or a minimum of *One Hundred Billion*
48 *Philippine Pesos* (PhP 100 Billion) in ten years, to promote a dynamic, sustainable, and broad-
49 based business environment in Mindanao, taking into consideration the uniqueness of the region's
50 geography, with particular focus on supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs),
51 through the following projects:

- 52
53 (a) capacity- and capability-building programs for MSMEs;
54 (b) the development of an effective One-Town, One-Product policy, with funding for
55 shared service facilities, product research/development, and the production,
56 packaging, marketing and trade thereof; and
57 (c) provision of micro-finance services as a source of capital for MSMEs, which shall have a
58 guaranteed funding of at least *Two Billion Five Hundred Million Philippine Pesos*
59 (PhP 2.5 Billion) per year.
60

1 The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Micro, Small and Medium
2 Enterprises Development Council (MSMED Council), is mandated to work with the National Anti-
3 Poverty Commission (NAPC), the People's Credit Finance Corporation (PCFC), Small Business
4 Corporation (SBCorp), the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP), and other relevant national
5 government agencies and local government units in ensuring that the funding projects/priorities
6 identified herein are properly implemented. The barangays, cities and municipalities concerned
7 shall be the primary implementing agencies.
8

9 **Section 10. Mindanao Agricultural Development and Modernization Program.**—There
10 is hereby established a Mindanao Agricultural Development and Modernization Program, which
11 provides a guaranteed funding of at least Ten Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 10 Billion) per year, or a
12 minimum of *One Hundred Billion Philippine Pesos* (PhP 100 Billion) in ten years, to establish a
13 dynamic and sustainable agribusiness sector with world-class, socially and environmentally
14 responsible farms and firms, including the modernization of agricultural processes and methods,
15 upgrade of infrastructure to facilitate production and trade of agricultural products, and the
16 development of the Halal food industry.
17

18 The Department of Agriculture (DA) is mandated to work with the relevant national
19 government agencies and local government units in implementing the following priority
20 programs/projects:

- 21 (a) capacity- and capability-building program for farmers,
- 22 (b) agri-business, agri-tech, research and development programs;
- 23 (c) farm modernization programs;
- 24 (d) crop insurance programs;
- 25 (e) food processing (including halal food processing);
- 26 (f) shared service facilities; and
- 27 (g) an access to credit program for small farmers, which shall be allotted a guaranteed
28 funding of at least *Five Billion Philippine Pesos* (PhP 5 Billion) per year.
29

30 **Section 11. Mindanao Housing and Human Settlements Development Program.**—
31 There is hereby established a Mindanao Housing and Human Settlements Development Program
32 geared towards attaining the goal of zero housing backlog. The program shall emphasize the policy
33 of building climate-resilient settlements and building of communities. Communities complete with
34 the relevant facilities/amenities, and characterized by the use of new and innovative housing
35 technologies and materials to bring down the cost of housing and reduce any adverse impact of
36 construction on the environment. Priorities shall be geared towards the informal settler families
37 displaced by war and other calamities, uniformed personnel such as those assigned in the
38 Mindanao units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police
39 (PNP), and other government employees.
40

41 The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) is hereby mandated to
42 work with the Local governments, the Department of National Defense (DND), The Department of
43 Interior and Local Governments (DILG) other relevant national government agencies, government-
44 owned and controlled corporations, in ensuring that the projects/priorities identified herein are
45 included in their annual proposed agency budgets.
46

47 **Section 12. Upholding the Rights of all Mindanaoans.** – To address the Mindanaoans'
48 legitimate grievances of historical injustices, human rights violations, marginalization through
49 unjust dispossession of their territorial and proprietary rights and customary land tenure, all
50 national government agencies tasked with implementing the provisions of this Act are hereby
51 mandated to respect, promote and uphold the rights and interests of all Christians, Muslims,
52 lumads, indigenous peoples and other Mindanao settlers.
53

54 The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the National Commission on
55 Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) are hereby mandated to work with the relevant national government
56 agencies and local government units to provide indigenous education for indigenous people, as well
57 as capacity-building programs aimed at improving the indigenous peoples' livelihood capabilities.
58 They shall also work to guarantee that all indigenous peoples are able to exercise their right to self-
59 determination in managing and governing their respective ancestral domains, to complete the
60 distribution of the ancestral lands of the indigenous peoples within a period of five (5) years from

1 the effectivity of this Act, and to ensure that the funding necessary to implement the priority
2 programs/projects identified herein are included in their annual proposed agency budgets.

3
4 **Section 13. Primary Implementing Agencies; Annual Reports.**—Pursuant to their
5 indispensable role as frontline institutions in delivering basic services to their constituents, the
6 relevant local government units (particularly the barangays, cities, municipalities, and provinces)
7 shall, as far as practicable, have the primary responsibility in the implementation of the priority
8 programs/projects identified under this Act.

9
10 In addition to and pursuant to its mandate under Republic Act No. 9996, the Mindanao
11 Development Authority (MinDA) is hereby designated as the lead agency to monitor and coordinate
12 the implementation of such projects. It shall coordinate with the relevant national government
13 agencies and local government units and prepare a consolidated progress report of the
14 implementation of all priority programs, projects and activities funded under this Act. Within the
15 first quarter of the succeeding year, the MinDA shall submit the annual report to the Office of the
16 President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives. Such report shall be made available to the
17 public for scrutiny, copying, and reproduction, and shall also be uploaded in the agency's website.

18
19 **Section 14. Appropriations and Period of Implementation.** – The Mindanao Peace and
20 Development Plan under this Act shall be implemented over a period of ten years. Within ninety
21 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, and every year thereafter, the President, upon the
22 recommendation of the heads of the implementing agencies, shall prepare the list of specific
23 priority programs, projects and activities that need to be funded for the year, and submit the same
24 to Congress for its consideration and approval in a joint resolution of the House of Representatives
25 and the Senate.

26
27 For its implementation period of ten years, the Mindanao Peace and Development Plan shall
28 have a guaranteed funding of at least Sixty-Five Billion Philippine Pesos (PhP 65 Billion) per year, or
29 a minimum of *Six Hundred Fifty Billion Philippine Pesos* (PhP 650 Billion) in ten years in addition
30 to the funding requirement of the Mindanao Railway System. Such guaranteed funding shall be over
31 and above the regular amounts provided under the annual General Appropriations Act, and be
32 treated as a distinct and separate budget item from the regular appropriations for the implementing
33 agencies.

34
35 **Section 15. Congressional Oversight Committee.** - There is hereby created
36 a Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor and oversee the implementation of the provisions
37 of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the Senate and six (6)
38 members from the House of Representatives with the Chairpersons of the Committees on Local
39 Government of both the Senate and the House of Representatives as joint Chairpersons of this
40 Committee. The five (5) other members from each Chamber are to be designated by the Senate
41 President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The minority shall be
42 entitled to *pro rata* representation but shall have at least two (2) representatives from each
43 Chamber.

44
45 **Section 16. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional,
46 the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

47
48 **Section 17. Repealing Clause.**— All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portion thereof,
49 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

50
51 **Section 18. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
52 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

53
54
55 *Approved,*