

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



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SENATE

S.B. No. 978

REC'D

BY: 

Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL
COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO ENHANCE AND ENSURE DELIVERY OF
ESSENTIAL SERVICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are 14-17 million estimated ICCs and IPs mainly concentrated in Northern Luzon (33%) and in Mindanao (61%). The Constitution mandates that the State shall recognize, protect, promote and fulfill the rights of the indigenous peoples.

In 1997, Republic Act No. 8371 or the '*Indigenous Peoples Rights Act*' (IPRA) was enacted into law fulfilling the State's constitutional duty to recognize the millions of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the country. However, despite the IPRA and the various international aids given to them, ICCs and IPs remain the most disadvantaged and the poorest in our country.

Geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) still lack basic services. The 2010 Report on the State of the World by the United Nations reveal that ICCs and IPs "*make up one-third of the world's poorest peoples, suffer disproportionately in areas like health, education, and human rights, and regularly face systemic discrimination and exclusion.*" Government has to remedy the miserable conditions of our ICCs and IPs.


It is imperative to establish Resource Centers in all ICCs/IPs which are ethnographically located as determined by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). These centers shall enhance the delivery of basic, social, technical and legal services to the ICCs and IPs.

Therefore, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

SONNY ANGARA

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "**Resource Centers for Indigenous**
2 **Peoples Act of 2016.**"

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby the policy of the State to provide Indigenous Cultural
5 Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs) equal access to basic services and ensure
6 protection of their rights, taking into consideration their customs, traditions, values and beliefs.
7 Towards this end, there is a need to set up Resource Centers in all ethnographic regions to
8 enhance the delivery of government's basic services and enable them to be recognized and
9 counted and have freedom to engage in participatory development programs, projects and
10 activities.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Establishment of Resource Centers for ICCs/IPs.** There shall be established
13 ICCs/IPs Resource Centers, hereinafter referred to as the "Center", in strategic places as
14 determined by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), hereinafter referred to
15 as the "Commission", taking into consideration their ethnological locations.

16
17 **SEC. 4. Staff and Components of the ICC/IP Resource Centers.** The Commission shall
18 designate in every Center a Chief Coordinating Officer. Concerned government departments
19 and agencies and local governments shall assign staff members to the Resource Centers.

20
21 **SEC. 5. Composition and Functions of the Center.** The Center shall be composed of the
22 following three (3) major service areas and their respective functions, namely:

23 (a) Statistical Service Area - documentation and recognition of ICCs/IPs, their indigenous
24 knowledge, systems and practices, political structures and customary laws through
25 census, appraisal and baseline reports and libraries;

1 (b) Human Development Index Service Area - addresses problems of ICCs/IPs and provide
2 basic and necessary services through link-up with concerned government department
3 and agencies, such as training programs, grant of scholarships, employment, livelihood
4 and enterprises and health services; and
5

6 (c) Domains Management Service Area - promotion of participatory programs, projects and
7 activities for ICCs/IPs to effectively deliver their responsibility of maintaining ecological
8 balance, restore denuded areas, observe laws, and ensure the implementation of the
9 Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protections Plans and such other
10 existing programs.
11

12 **SEC. 6. Monitoring Progress and Implementation and Impact of this Act.** The Commission
13 shall submit to Congress every three (3) years or as determined in the implementing rules and
14 regulations, an annual report of its accomplishments.
15

16 **SEC. 7. Funding.** The initial funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be
17 charged against the current appropriations of the agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums
18 as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the agencies' yearly
19 budgets under the General Appropriations Act.
20

21 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** Within ninety (90) days after the
22 approval of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the following concerned government
23 agencies, to wit: Local Government Units (LGUs), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA),
24 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Technical Education and Skills
25 Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher
26 Education (CHED), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Department of Justice (DOJ),
27 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
28 Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),
29 Department of Agriculture (DA), Land Management Bureau (LMB), Land Registration Authority
30 (LRA), and such other concerned agencies, shall issue the necessary Rules and Regulations
31 for the effective implementation of this Act.
32

33 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** All laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with
34 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
35

36 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid
37 or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provisions thereof shall be affected thereby.
38

39 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its
40 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
41

42 Approved,