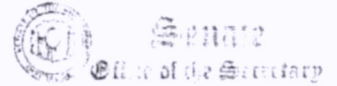


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)
July



SENATE
S. No. 1930

'18 AUG -9 P3:41

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**AN ORGANIC ACT
ESTABLISHING THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article X of the 1987 Constitution provides for the creation of the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR). The Cordillera people have been waiting for three decades for their opportunity at self-governance.

The proposed Organic Act will recognize the regional identity of the Cordillera people and enable its people to craft policies that are relevant to the unique culture, history and resources of the Cordillera people. Establishing the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera should be prioritized over any shift from presidential to federal form of government.

The passing of this measure will fulfill the provision of the 1987 Constitution, and would convey the government's trust in the people of the Cordillera Region.

Let's put our faith in the capability and resolve of Filipinos to build a better, more prosperous Philippines for all. Let us finally grant regional autonomy to the Cordillera people.

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

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**AN ORGANIC ACT
ESTABLISHING THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA**

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

PREAMBLE

1
2 We, the Cordillerans, pursuant to Section 15, Article X of the 1987
3 Constitution, imploring the will of Divine Providence, exercising our fundamental and
4 Constitutional right to self-determination, faithful to the pursuit of our forebears for
5 the defense, protection, conservation and development of our patrimony and cultural
6 heritage, in order to secure for ourselves and our posterity a region of peace and
7 prosperity founded on truth, freedom, justice, love and human solidarity through a
8 Regional Autonomous Government that shall ensure our human rights, our human
9 development, and our active participation as citizens in the affairs of a united
10 Philippine State, do proclaim this Organic Act of the Autonomous Region of the
11 Cordillera.

1 ARTICLE I
2 NAME AND PURPOSE

3 Section 1. *Name.* — There is hereby established an autonomous region in the
4 Cordillera to be known as the "Autonomous Region of the Cordillera" (ARC).

5 Sec. 2. *Purpose.* — The purpose of this law is to establish a political entity,
6 provide for its basic structure of government in recognition of the justness and cause
7 of the Cordillerans and to secure their identity and posterity and allow for
8 meaningful governance.

9 ARTICLE II
10 TERRITORY OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA

11 Sec. 3. *Area of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera.* — The area of the
12 Autonomous Region of the Cordillera shall consist of the city and provinces that shall
13 vote favorably in the plebiscite called for the ratification of this Organic Act pursuant
14 to Sec. 18, Article X of the Constitution. The area of the plebiscite shall be the
15 provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, and the
16 chartered City of Baguio.

17 Sec. 4. *Cordilleran Identity.* — The term Cordilleran shall apply to all citizens
18 of the Philippines, who are, and were domiciled within the territory of the
19 Autonomous Region of the Cordillera.

20 ARTICLE III
21 DECLARATION OF POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

22 Sec. 5. *Integral Part of the Republic.* — The Autonomous Region of the
23 Cordillera shall remain an integral and inseparable part of the national territory of
24 the Republic as defined by the Constitution and existing laws. The autonomous
25 region shall be governed and administered in accordance with the laws enacted by

1 the Regional Assembly and by this Organic act, national laws shall be suppletory in
2 application.

3 *Sec. 6. Equitable Share in the National Budget and Development Assistance.*

4 — The central government or national government shall provide the autonomous
5 region a proportionate and equitable share in the annual national budget and foreign
6 assisted projects in addition to other financial assistance, support and subsidies to
7 accelerate its development. Whenever the Commission on Audit finds that the
8 internal controls set up in the region are inadequate, it may require pre-audit and
9 shall likewise conduct seminars in the communities concerned explaining the benefits
10 and proper use of the internal revenue allotments.

11 *Sec. 7. Self-Governance.* — In the exercise of their right to genuine autonomy

12 and meaningful self-governance, Cordillerans are free to pursue their political, social
13 and cultural development within the framework of national sovereignty.

14 *Sec. 8. Democratic Political System.* — The Regional Government is a

15 democratic political system allowing the people to participate in the political process.

16 *Sec. 9. Prior and Preferential Right.* — Cordillerans shall have prior and

17 preferential right to the natural, material, and fiscal resources of the region

18 *Sec. 10. Fundamental Rights and Duties of People.* — The fundamental rights

19 and duties of the people in the autonomous region are those defined in the
20 Constitution and this Organic Act, the Geneva Convention, the United Nations
21 Charter, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the
22 International Declaration on Human Rights, as well as those prescribed in the laws,
23 practices, and principles binding upon members of the community of nations, and
24 the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA).

1 Sec. 11. *Rights to Initiatives, Consultations, Referenda and Plebiscites.* —
2 Without prejudice to other rights guaranteed by the Constitution, the rights of the
3 people to the autonomous region to initiate measures for the passage, amendment
4 or repeal of regional or local legislation; to be consulted on matters that affect their
5 environment; to call for a referendum on important issues affecting their lives; and,
6 to recall regional or local officials as provided by Republic Act 7160, the Local
7 Government Code of 1991, are hereby recognized.

8 Sec. 12. *Accountability of Public Officers.* — The Regional Government, to
9 meet the priority needs and service requirements of its constituents shall adopt the
10 principles of integrity, transparency and accountability in order to ensure an
11 accountable, efficient and dynamic organizational structure.

12 Sec. 13. *Upholding Human Rights.* — The Regional Government shall take
13 measures to prevent torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, illegal
14 detention and extra-judicial killings.

15 Sec. 14. *Establishment of Peace Zones.* — The regional government adheres
16 to the policy of peace and shall establish peace zones within the region.

17 Sec. 15. *Civilian Government.* — Governance in the Autonomous Region is the
18 responsibility of the duly constituted civilian government.

19 Sec. 16. *Devolution of Powers.* — The regional government shall adopt a
20 policy on local autonomy whereby regional powers shall be devolved to LGUs
21 particularly in areas but not limited to education, health, human resources, science
22 and technology, and people empowerment. Until a law implementing this provision is
23 enacted by the Regional Assembly, Republic Act No. 7160, the Local Government
24 Code of 1991, shall continue to apply to all provinces, cities, municipalities, and
25 barangay within the autonomous region.

1 The regional assembly may not pass any law to diminish, lessen or reduce the
2 powers, functions, and shares in the internal revenue taxes of the said local
3 government units as provided by Republic Act No. 7160.

4 *Sec. 17. Sustainable Use and Management of Resources.* — The Regional
5 Government shall share with the national government in the exploration,
6 development and utilization of its natural resources, the dynamic conservation and
7 protection of natural resources by promoting the sustainable use and management
8 thereof, by adopting the use of environmentally sound and appropriate technology
9 and indigenous knowledge systems in the management of natural resources.

10 *Sec. 18. Community Responsive Education.* — The Regional Government with
11 the active involvement of State Colleges and Universities shall establish a system of
12 education that responds to the needs of the Cordillera communities which respects
13 and promotes indigenous knowledge, core values, systems, institutions, culture and
14 practice; encourages the use of indigenous languages and methods of education;
15 promotes science and appropriate technology and methodologies that encourage
16 creative and critical thinking of the Cordilleran youth.

17 *Sec. 19. Protection and Empowerment of the Cordilleran Youth and Children.*
18 — The Regional Government shall formulate plans and programs for the youth that
19 empowers them by guaranteeing their effective participation and representation in
20 all aspects of public affairs. Further, laws shall be enacted and measures adopted to
21 protect children against all forms of neglect, cruelty, and exploitation which are
22 harmful to their moral, physical, or mental health.

23 *Sec. 20. Regional Arrangements.* — The Autonomous Region of the Cordillera
24 shall pursue a policy of interregional development planning, coordination and mutual
25 cooperation in order to sustain the use, development as well as the protection and
26 conservation of its resources which benefits other regions.

1 Sec. 21. *Equal Access and Non-discrimination.* — The Regional Government
2 shall ensure equal access by Cordillerans to resources, employment opportunities
3 and services regardless of ethnic origin, gender, language, political conviction,
4 economic, social status and/ or religious belief.

5 Sec. 22. *Social Justice.* — The Regional Government shall minimize disparities
6 between the rich and the poor, rural and urban areas within the region by providing,
7 maintaining and ensuring the equitable delivery of basic and responsive health
8 programs, quality education, appropriate services, livelihood opportunities,
9 affordable and progressive housing projects and water resource development.

10 Sec. 23. *Safeguards on Foreign Investments.* — The Regional Government
11 shall provide incentives to investors, corporations and other businesses, but shall
12 adopt measures to prevent the abuse of human rights and exploration of natural
13 resources. To this end, the regional government shall adopt local and international
14 safeguards to review and audit the impact of all forms of foreign aid, loans special
15 projects and the like.

16 ARTICLE IV
17 THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA

18 A. Powers of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera

19 Sec. 24. *Powers and Functions.* — The regional government shall exercise
20 powers and functions necessary for the proper governance and development of all
21 provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays within the autonomous region
22 consistent with the declared constitutional policy on regional and local autonomy and
23 decentralization: Provided, that nothing in this Act shall be construed as to authorize
24 the diminution of the powers and functions already enjoyed by local government
25 units.

1 Sec. 25. *Devolved Powers.* — The autonomous region is a corporate entity
2 with jurisdiction in all matters devolved to it by the Constitution and this Organic Act
3 as herein enumerated:

4 (1) Administrative organization such as but not limited to:

- 5 a. Declaration of holidays,
- 6 b. Public administration and bureaucracy for the region, and
- 7 c. Identification, generation, and mobilization of international
8 human resources for capacity-building and other activities
9 involving the same within the region.

10 (2) Creation of sources of revenues such as but not limited to:

- 11 a. Authority to regulate power generation, transmission and
12 distribution operating exclusively in the autonomous region and
13 not connected to the national transmission grid, and
- 14 b. Imposition of taxes to which are not already taxed by the
15 national and local government.

16 (3) Ancestral domain and natural resources such as but not limited to:

- 17 a. Protection, delineation and titling of the ancestral domain and
18 ancestral lands of indigenous cultural communities (ICCs). All
19 lands and natural resources in the autonomous region that have
20 been possessed or occupied by ICCs since time immemorial,
21 except when prevented by war, force majeure, or other forms of
22 forcible usurpation, shall form part of the ancestral domain.
23 Such ancestral domain shall include pasture lands, worship
24 areas, burial grounds, forests and fields, mineral resources,

1 except strategic minerals such as uranium, coal, petroleum; and
2 other fossil fuels, mineral oils, and all sources of potential
3 energy; lakes, rivers, and lagoons; and national reserves and
4 marine parks, as well as forest and watershed reservations.

5 b. The Regional Governor to grant leases, permits, and licenses
6 over agricultural, forest, or mineral lands. The said leases,
7 permits, franchises, or concessions shall, however, cover areas
8 not exceeding the limits allowed by the Constitution and shall
9 subsist for a period not exceeding 25 years. Except as provided
10 in this Organic Act, existing leases, permits, licenses, franchises,
11 and concessions shall be respected until their expiration unless
12 legally terminated earlier as provided by law, enacted by
13 Congress or the Regional Assembly.

14 c. Declaration and disestablishment of nature reserves and aquatic
15 parks, forests, and watershed reservations, and other protected
16 areas in the autonomous region.

17 d. Authority, power, and right to the control and supervision over
18 the exploration, utilization, development, and protection of the
19 lands, forests, water, minerals and other natural resources
20 within the autonomous region in accordance with the
21 Constitution and the pertinent provisions of this Organic Act
22 except for the strategic minerals such as uranium, petroleum,
23 and other fossil fuels, mineral oil, and all sources of potential
24 energy, provided that the autonomous government shall be
25 consulted. Permits and licenses and the granting of contracts for
26 this purpose shall be within the powers of the ARC.

27 e. Regulation of small-scale mining to the end that the ecological
28 balance, safety and health, and the interests of the affected

1 communities, the miners, the indigenous peoples, and the local
2 government units of the place where such operations are
3 conducted are duly protected and safeguarded.

4 (4) Personal, family and property relations shall be governed by existing
5 laws including customary justice and laws which are not contrary to
6 morals, good customs and public policy;

7 (5) Regional urban and rural planning development such as but not limited
8 to:

9 a. Adoption and implementation of a comprehensive urban land
10 reform and land use program,

11 b. Land management, land distribution, and agricultural land
12 use reclassification, and

13 c. Authority to conduct cadastral survey.

14 (6) Economic, social and tourism development such as but not limited to:

15 a. Establishment of transportation and communication facilities
16 to expedite the economic development of the autonomous
17 region,
18

19 b. Promotion of tourism with the autonomous region, and

20 c. Regulation of games and amusement operations within the
21 ARC.

22 (7) Educational policies such as but not limited to education and skills
23 training, research councils and scholarships.

1 (8) Preservation and development of the cultural heritage such as but not
2 limited to the establishment of its own libraries and museums, and
3 declaration of historical and cultural sites; and culture and language.

4 (9) Patents, trademark, trade names, and copyrights; and such other
5 matters for the promotion of the general welfare of the people of the
6 region.

7 Sec. 26. The Regional Government may exercise the power of eminent
8 domain.

9 B. Intergovernmental Relations

10 Sec. 27. *General Supervision.* — Consistent with the principle of autonomy,
11 the President shall exercise general supervision over the Regional Government to
12 ensure that laws are faithfully executed.

13 Sec. 28. *Powers of regional line agencies whose functions are covered by Sec.*
14 *25.* — The Regional Line Agencies whose functions are covered by Sec. 25 shall
15 continue to exist without diminution of their mandated authority and perform their
16 functions.

17 Sec. 29. *Powers of regional line agencies whose functions are devolved under*
18 *Sec. 25:*

- 19 a. Regional Line Agencies and offices shall perform those functions
20 devolved by the Constitution to autonomous regions as enumerated in
21 Section 25 of this Organic Act;

1 b. Regional line agency officials and employees shall continue to be paid
2 in accordance with Sec. 33. There shall be no diminution of their
3 compensation and other benefits due its officials and employees.

4 Existing assets and properties of the regional line agencies and offices shall
5 remain under their custody and accountability.

6 *Sec. 30. Tenure of Civil Service Employees.* — Except for just cause and after
7 due process, Civil Service officials and employees of the regional line agencies and
8 offices in the region shall not be laid off, dismissed or removed as a result of any
9 reorganization attendant to the establishment of the Autonomous Region of the
10 Cordillera.

11 *Sec. 31. Priority in Hiring.* — Civil service officials and employees of the
12 regional autonomous government and the regional line agencies in the autonomous
13 region shall be hired in accordance with appropriate Civil Service rules and
14 regulations, but priority shall be accorded to qualified Cordillerans.

15 *Sec. 32. Appointment to Third Level Positions.* — The Regional Governor shall
16 fill up third level positions from among at least three (3) recommendees of the
17 regional Personnel Selection Board (PSB) that shall be duly constituted. Filling up of
18 third level positions of regional line agencies and offices shall be subject to the
19 Career Executive Service Board (CESB) requirements, where applicable. Otherwise,
20 the selection requirements of the concerned agency shall apply.

21 *Sec. 33. Budget Preparation.* — Regional line agencies and offices whose
22 functions are devolved to the regional government under Sec. 25 shall prepare their
23 respective budgets focused on the priorities and developmental goals of the region,
24 separate and distinct from the budget of the Regional Government. Their budgets
25 shall however be attached and form part of the whole budget of the Regional
26 Government when presented to Congress to ensure that plans and priorities of the

1 autonomous region are harmonized and properly considered in the budgeting
2 processes. Provided however, after the full implementation of Sec. 167, the budget
3 of the absorbed RLAs and offices shall continue to be funded by the national
4 government.

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

11 *Sec. 35. GOCCs.* — Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs)
12 such as Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Social Security System
13 (SSS), the Pagtutulungan-Ikaw, Bangko Industriya't Gobyerno (PAG-IBIG),
14 PhilHealth and others shall continue to be governed by their respective charters and
15 other pertinent laws.

16 *Sec. 36. Autonomy of Local Government Units.* — The local government units
17 shall continue to be independent from each other and shall have the same set of
18 local officials and employees and shall enjoy autonomy and continue to exercise the
19 powers granted them under the Local Government Code and other existing laws.
20 The Local Government Code shall apply to all provinces, cities, municipalities and
21 barangays in the autonomous region until the Regional Assembly shall enact a
22 regional Local Government Code. Nothing herein provided shall be construed in any
23 manner as to diminish the powers and functions as well as benefits and privileges
24 already being enjoyed by the local government units.

25 *Sec. 37. Supervision of Devolved Line Agencies and Local Government Units*
26 *through the Regional Governor.* — Consistent with the basic policy on local
27 autonomy, the President, through the Regional Governor shall exercise direct

1 supervision over provinces and highly urbanized cities in the autonomous region to
2 ensure that their acts are within the scope of their prescribed powers and functions.

3 *Sec. 38. Revenues and Taxes Accruing to LGUs.* — Revenues, taxes, fees and
4 charges generated by the local government units and the regional government from
5 their respective local tax ordinances shall exclusively accrue to them.

6 *Sec. 39. Just Share in National Taxes.* — The local government units in the
7 autonomous region, including the Regional Government, shall have a just share in
8 the national taxes and applicable revenues which shall be automatically released to
9 them.

10 *Sec. 40. Equitable Share in Utilization of Resources.* — The local government
11 units in the autonomous region including the Regional Government shall be entitled
12 to an equitable share in the proceeds of the utilization and development of the
13 national wealth within their respective areas, in the manner provided by law and this
14 Organic Act.

15 *Sec. 41. City Charters.* — Any chartered city within the autonomous region
16 shall be governed primarily by its Charter.

17 *Sec. 42. Creation of Special Political Subdivisions.* — Special metropolitan
18 political subdivisions may, by law, be created by the Regional Assembly, subject to a
19 plebiscite. The component cities and municipalities shall retain their basic autonomy
20 and shall be entitled to their own local executive and legislative bodies. The
21 jurisdiction of the metropolitan authority that will thereby be created shall be limited
22 to basic services requiring coordination.

23 *Sec. 43. Right of LGUs to Aggregate.* — The local government units in the
24 autonomous region may group themselves, consolidate or coordinate their efforts,

1 services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them in accordance
2 with law.

3 ARTICLE V

4 ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENT – THEIR
5 QUALIFICATIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE, VACANCIES AND SUCCESSION AND
6 ACCOUNTABILITY

7 Sec. 44. *Elective Officials.* — The elective officials of the Autonomous Region
8 of the Cordillera are the (a) Regional Governor, (b) Regional Vice-Governor, and (c)
9 Members of the Regional Assembly.

10 Sec. 45. *Qualifications:*

11 a. Candidates for Regional Governor and Vice-Governor positions must
12 be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, at least thirty-five
13 (35) years of age on election day, a registered voter in the region
14 and a resident thereof for a period of at least five (5) years
15 immediately preceding the day of election, able to read and write
16 Filipino or English or any 2 other local languages in the region.

17 b. Candidates for the position of Member of the Regional Assembly
18 must be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, at least thirty
19 (30) years of age on election day, a registered voter in the
20 provincial district or city and a resident thereof for a period of at
21 least five (5) years immediately preceding the day of election, able
22 to read and write Filipino or English or any other local language in
23 the region.

24 Sec. 46. *Disqualifications.* — In addition to the disqualifications provided
25 under Book I, Title Two, Chapter 1, Section 40 of the Local Government Code,

1 candidates for Regional Governor, Vice-Governor and members of the Regional
2 Assembly must not be related to the incumbent elected regional officials within the
3 4th degree of consanguinity or affinity.

4 *Sec. 47. Manner of Election:*

5 a. The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor shall be elected at large
6 by direct vote of the registered voters of the Autonomous Region of
7 the Cordillera.

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

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

20 *Sec. 48. Term of Office:*

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

1 Regional Assembly shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive
2 terms.

- 3 b. Voluntary renunciation of, or removal from, office for any length of
4 time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of
5 the service for the full term for which officials were elected.

6 Sec. 49. *Oath of Office.* — The Regional Governor, Vice-Governor and
7 Members of the Regional Assembly on assuming office shall take the following oath
8 or affirmation:

9 *"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill*
10 *my duties as Governor/Vice-Governor/Member of the Regional Assembly of*
11 *the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera, preserve and defend the*
12 *Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and the Organic Act of the*
13 *Autonomous Region of the Cordillera, execute these laws, do justice to all and*
14 *consecrate myself to the service of the nation and the Autonomous Region of*
15 *the Cordillera. So help me God."* (In case of affirmation, the last sentence will
16 *be omitted.)*

17 Sec. 50. *Prohibitions:*

- 18 a. The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor shall not, during their
19 tenure, engage in the practice of any profession or hold any other
20 office or employment, except as otherwise provided in this Act.
- 21 b. The spouse and other relatives by consanguinity or affinity within
22 the fourth civil degree of the Regional Governor and the Regional
23 Vice-Governor shall not, during their tenure, be appointed officers
24 or employees of the Regional Government, except as members of
25 their confidential staff.

1 c. No members of the Regional Assembly may hold any other office or
2 employment in the government or any subdivision, agency or
3 instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled
4 corporations, or their subsidiaries, during their term without
5 forfeiting their seat. Neither shall he/she be appointed to any office
6 which has been created or the emoluments whereof increased by
7 the Regional Assembly during the term for which he/she was
8 elected.

9 d. The Regional Governor, and Regional Vice-Governor, and members
10 of the Regional Assembly shall not personally appear as counsel
11 before any court of justice or before the Electoral Commission or
12 quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies.

13 e. The Regional Governor, Regional Vice-Governor, and members of
14 the Regional Assembly shall not participate directly or indirectly in
15 any contract with or in any franchise or special privilege granted by
16 the Regional Government or any subdivision, agency or
17 instrumentality thereof, including any government-owned or-
18 controlled corporations or in any of their subsidiaries. They shall not
19 intervene in any matter before any office of the Autonomous
20 Region of the Cordillera for their pecuniary benefit or where they
21 may be called upon to act on account of their office.

22 *Sec. 51. Vacancies and Succession:*

23 a. In the event that the position of the Regional Governor becomes
24 permanently vacant, the Regional Vice-Governor shall automatically
25 become the Regional Governor.

26 b. If the position of the Regional Vice-Governor becomes permanently
27 vacant, the member of the assembly garnering the highest

1 percentage of votes in the district represented shall become the
2 vice-governor or in case of his/her permanent disability, the next
3 higher shall assume said position.

4 c. In case of a permanent vacancy in the assembly where automatic
5 succession does not apply, the Regional Governor shall appoint to
6 the position so vacated the nominee of the political party to which
7 the member who caused the vacancy belonged at the time of his
8 election. Provided, however, that the appointee has all the
9 qualifications and none of the disqualifications as provided by this
10 Organic Act. Provided, that should the one causing the vacancy did
11 not belong to any political party shall be filled by nomination by
12 majority members of the assembly. Provided further, that in both
13 cases, he/she comes from the same district represented by the
14 member who caused the vacancy.

15 d. For purposes of this article, a permanent vacancy arises when the
16 incumbent elective official concerned dies, voluntarily resigns, is
17 removed from office, fills up a higher vacant office, refuses to
18 assume office, fails to qualify, or is otherwise permanently
19 incapacitated to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of
20 his office.

21 *Sec. 52. Temporary Vacancies:*

22 a. When the Regional Governor is temporarily incapacitated to
23 perform his duties for physical or legal reasons such as, but not
24 limited to, leave of absence, travel abroad, and suspension from
25 office, the regional vice governor shall automatically exercise the
26 powers and perform the duties and functions of the former except
27 the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees which can only

1 be exercised if the period of temporary incapacity exceeds thirty
2 (30) working days.

3 b. Said temporary incapacity shall terminate upon submission to the
4 Regional Assembly of a written declaration by the Regional
5 Governor that he has reported back to office. In cases where the
6 temporary incapacity is due to legal causes, the regional official
7 concerned shall also submit necessary documents showing that said
8 legal causes no longer exist.

9 c. When the incumbent Regional Governor is traveling within the
10 country but outside his territorial jurisdiction for a period not
11 exceeding three (3) consecutive days, he may designate in writing,
12 the officer-in-charge of the said office. Such authorization shall
13 specify the powers and functions that the regional official
14 concerned shall exercise except the power to appoint, suspend or
15 dismiss employees.

16 d. In the event, however, that the Regional Governor concerned fails
17 or refuses to issue such authorization, the Regional Vice-Governor
18 shall have the right to assume the powers, duties and functions of
19 the said office on the fourth (4th) day of absence of the Regional
20 Governor, subject to the limitations provided in subsection c,
21 hereof.

22 e. Except as provided above, the Regional Governor shall in no case
23 authorize any regional official to assume the powers, duties and
24 functions of the office, other than the Regional Vice-Governor or
25 the highest ranking Member of the Regional Assembly, as the case
26 may be.

1 Sec. 53. *Approval of Leaves of Absence.* — Leaves of absence of elective
2 officials of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera shall be approved as follows:

- 3 a. Leaves of absence of regional officials, provincial governor, mayor
4 of a highly urbanized city or an independent component city shall
5 be approved by the Regional Governor or his duly authorized
6 representative;
- 7 b. Applications for leaves of absence of other officials and employees
8 other than those enumerated above shall follow those stipulated in
9 the Local Government Code;
- 10 c. Application for leave of the Regional Governor shall be approved by
11 the President.

12 Sec. 54. *Compensation:*

- 13 a. Unless otherwise provided by law or regional ordinance, the
14 Regional Governor and Regional Vice-Governor shall receive an
15 annual salary equivalent to that of a department secretary and
16 undersecretary, respectively, of the national government, which
17 shall not be decreased during their tenure. No increase in the salary
18 of the Regional Governor and Regional Vice-Governor shall take
19 effect until after the expiration of the term of the Regional
20 Governor and Regional Vice-Governor approving the same.
- 21 b. Unless otherwise provided by a regional ordinance, a member of
22 the Regional Assembly shall receive an annual salary not lower than
23 that of an assistant secretary of the national government. No
24 increase in salary provided for by ordinance shall take effect until
25 after the expiration of the term of office of all members of the
26 Regional Assembly approving the same.

- 1 c. They shall not receive during their tenure any other emoluments
2 from the government or any other sources.

3 Sec. 55. *Accountability:*

- 4 a. *Disclosure.* All regional officials shall, upon their assumption of
5 office, make a full disclosure of their financial and business
6 interests, including those of their spouses and unmarried children
7 under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households.
8 Members of the Regional Assembly shall notify the Regional
9 Assembly of any potential conflict of interest that may arise from
10 the filing of measures of which they are authors. This section shall
11 be governed by R.A. 6713 or the Code of conduct and ethical
12 standards for public officials and employees.

- 13 b. Discipline of Regional Elective Officials shall be governed by Chapter
14 4, Title Two of Book I of R.A 7160 and other applicable laws.

- 15 c. *Recall.* Regional Elective Officials may be recalled on grounds and
16 procedures as provided for by Chapter 5, Title Two of Book I of
17 R.A. 7160 and other applicable laws.

18 ARTICLE VI

19 THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

20 Sec. 56. *Executive Authority.* — The executive power in the region shall be
21 vested in a Regional Governor. He shall exercise such powers and perform such
22 duties and functions as provided by this Organic Act and other laws.

1 Sec. 57. *Scope of Executive Authority.* — As chief executive of the Regional
2 Government, the Regional Governor shall exercise control and supervision over all
3 programs, projects, services and activities of the Regional Government and regional
4 line agencies and offices absorbed by the regional government; and supervision over
5 local government units within the autonomous region.

6 Sec. 58. *Extent of Representation by Regional Governor.* — The Regional
7 Governor shall represent the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera, including the
8 absorbed regional line agencies and offices and the local government units within
9 the autonomous region in Cabinet meetings called by the President and other affairs
10 involving the region.

11 Sec. 59. *Regional Governor and Regional Assembly.* — The Regional Governor
12 shall deliver the State of the Region Address to the Regional Assembly at the
13 opening of its regular sessions. He/she may also appear before it at any time.

14 Sec. 60. *Regional Governor to Submit Budget.* — The Regional Governor shall
15 submit to the Regional Assembly within thirty (30) days from the opening of every
16 regular session, as the basis of the regional appropriations bill, budget of
17 expenditures and sources of financing, including receipts from existing and proposed
18 revenue measures.

19 Sec. 61. *Administrative Support.* — The Regional Governor and the different
20 regional departments shall have sufficient administrative and support staff to
21 efficiently and effectively carry out their mandates and the purposes of the regional
22 government.

23 Sec. 62. *Mandatory Staff.* — The regional autonomous government shall have
24 the following mandatory staff: (1) Regional Executive Secretary, (2) Regional
25 Accountant, (3) Regional Budget Officer, (4) Regional Administrator, (5) Regional
26 Legal Officer, (6) Regional Treasurer, and (7) Regional General Services Officer. In

1 addition thereto, the Regional Governor may, subject to the approval of the Regional
2 Assembly and availability of funds, create other offices deemed necessary.

3 The Regional Executive Secretary and the heads of the various regional
4 offices and employees under the executive department shall be appointed by the
5 Regional Governor. With the exception of the former, the appointment of the heads
6 of regional offices requires the concurrence of the majority of the members of the
7 Regional Assembly and compliance to civil service law, rules and regulations and this
8 Organic Act. The Regional Assembly shall act on said appointment within fifteen (15)
9 days from the date of submission otherwise the same shall be deemed confirmed.

10 The rank and salary grade level of the heads of the different regional
11 departments shall be equivalent to the regional directors of regional line agencies.
12 They shall receive compensation, allowances and other emoluments and benefits
13 allowed by law or ordinance. With the exception of the Regional Executive Secretary,
14 the heads of the regional departments shall be mandatory.

15 The qualifications of regional appointive officials, their duties and functions,
16 are as follows:

17 1) Regional Executive Secretary

18 (a) The Regional Executive Secretary of the Autonomous Region of the
19 Cordillera shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of
20 good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in
21 law, administration or any other related course from a recognized
22 college or university. He/she must have acquired experience in
23 management work for at least five (5) years.

24 (b) The term of office of the Regional Executive Secretary shall be co-
25 terminus with that of the appointing authority.

1 (c) The Regional Executive Secretary shall, subject to the control and
2 supervision of the Regional Governor, carry out the functions and
3 duties delegated to him/her and shall:

4 1. Directly assist the Regional Governor in the management of
5 the affairs pertaining to the Autonomous Region of the
6 Cordillera.

7 2. Implement directives, orders and decisions.

8 3. Decide, for and in behalf of the Regional Governor, matters
9 not requiring personal attention of the Regional Governor.

10 4. Exercise supervision and control over the various units in the
11 Office of the Regional Governor including their internal
12 administrative requirements.

13 5. Exercise supervision, in behalf of the Regional Governor,
14 over the various agencies under the Office of the Regional
15 Governor.

16 6. Provide overall coordination in the operation of the Regional
17 Executive Office.

18 7. Determine and assign matters to the appropriate units in the
19 Office of the Regional Governor.

20 8. Have administrative responsibility for matters in the Office of
21 the Regional Governor coming from the various regional
22 offices and agencies of government.

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

1 2) Regional Accountant

2 (a) The Regional Accountant shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a
3 Cordilleran, of good moral character, and a certified public
4 accountant. He/she must have acquired experience in the treasury
5 or accounting service for at least five (5) years.

6 (b) The incumbent chief accountant in the office of the treasurer shall
7 be given preference in the appointment to the position of the
8 regional accountant.

9 (c) The regional accountant shall take charge of both the accounting
10 and internal audit services of the autonomous region and shall:

11 1. Install and maintain an internal audit system in the
12 autonomous region.

13 2. Prepare and submit financial statements to the Regional
14 Governor and to the Regional Assembly.

15 3. Apprise the Regional Assembly and other government
16 officials on the financial condition and operations of the
17 autonomous region.

18 4. Certify to the availability of budgetary allotment to which
19 expenditures and obligations may be properly charged.

20 5. Review supporting documents before preparation of
21 vouchers to determine completeness of requirements.

- 1 6. Prepare statements of cash advances, liquidation, salaries,
2 allowances, reimbursements and remittances pertaining to
3 the autonomous region.

- 4 7. Prepare statements of journal vouchers and liquidation of the
5 same and other adjustments related thereto.

- 6 8. Post individual disbursements to the subsidiary ledger and
7 index cards.

- 8 9. Maintain individual ledgers for officials and employees of the
9 autonomous region pertaining to payrolls and deductions.

- 10 10. Record and post in index cards details of purchased
11 furniture, fixtures, and equipment, including disposal thereof,
12 if any.

- 13 11. Account for all issued requests for obligations and maintain
14 and keep all records and reports related thereto.

- 15 12. Prepare journals and the analysis of obligations and maintain
16 and keep all records and reports related thereto.

- 17 13. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties
18 and functions as may be provided by law or ordinance.

19 3) Regional Budget Officer

- 20 (a) The Regional Budget Officer shall be a citizen of the Philippines and
21 a Cordilleran, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree
22 preferably in accounting, economics, public administration or any

1 related course from a recognized college or university, and a first
2 grade civil service eligible or its equivalent.

3 (b) He/she must have acquired experience in government budgeting
4 for at least five (5) years.

5 (c) The budget officer shall take charge of the budget office and shall:

6 1. Prepare forms, orders, and circulars embodying instructions
7 on budgetary and appropriation matters for the signature of
8 the Regional Governor;

9 2. Review and consolidate the budget proposals of different
10 departments and offices of the Regional Government;

11 3. Assist the Regional Governor in the preparation of the
12 budget and during budget hearings;

13 4. Study and evaluate budgetary implications of proposed
14 legislation and submit comments and recommendations
15 thereon;

16
17 5. Submit periodic budgetary reports to the Department of
18 Budget and Management;

19 6. Coordinate with the treasurer, accountant, and the planning
20 officer for the purpose of budgeting;

21 7. Assist the Regional Assembly in reviewing the approved
22 budgets of the provincial and highly urbanized cities;

1 8. Coordinate with the regional planning officer in the
2 formulation of the regional development plan; and

3 9. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties
4 and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

5 4) Regional Administrator

6 (a) The Regional Administrator shall be a citizen of the Philippines and
7 a Cordilleran, of good moral character, and a holder of a college
8 degree preferably in law, public administration or any other related
9 course from a recognized college or university. He/she must have
10 acquired experience in management and administration work for at
11 least five (5) years.

12 (b) The term of office of the Regional Administrator shall be coterminus
13 with that of the appointing authority.

14 (c) Subject to the control and supervision of the Regional Governor,
15 the Regional Administrator shall:

16 1. Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof
17 by the Regional Governor, implement the same
18 particularly those which have to do with the management
19 and administration-related programs and projects which
20 the Regional Governor is empowered to implement and
21 which the Regional Assembly is empowered to provide for
22 under this Organic Act.

23 2. Assist in the coordination of the work of all the officials of
24 the autonomous region, under the supervision, direction,
25 and control of the Regional Governor, and for this

1 purpose, he may convene the chiefs of offices and other
2 officials of the autonomous region.

3 3. Establish and maintain a sound personnel program for
4 the autonomous region designed to promote career
5 development and uphold the merit principle in the local
6 government service.

7 4. Conduct a continuing organizational development of the
8 autonomous region with the end in view of instituting
9 effective administrative reforms.

10 5. Be in the frontline of the delivery of administrative
11 support services, particularly those related to the
12 situations during and in the aftermath of man-made and
13 natural disasters and calamities.

14 6. Recommend to the Regional Assembly and advise the
15 Regional Governor, as the case may be, on all other
16 matters relative to the management and administration
17 of the regional autonomous government.

18 7. Exercise such other powers and perform such other
19 duties and functions as may be 15 prescribed by law or
20 by ordinance.

21 5) Regional Legal Officer

22 (a) The Regional Legal Officer shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a
23 Cordilleran, of good moral character, and a member of the
24 Philippine Bar. He must have practiced his profession or at least five
25 (5) years.

1 (b) The term of office of the Regional Legal Officer shall be coterminus
2 with that of the appointing authority.

3 (c) The Regional Legal Officer, the chief legal counsel of the regional
4 autonomous government, shall take charge of the office of legal
5 services and shall:

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

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

18 3. Recommend measures and advise the Regional Governor on
19 all other matters related to upholding the rule of law.

20 4. Be in the frontline of protecting human rights and
21 prosecuting any violations thereof, particularly those which
22 occur during and in the aftermath of man-made or natural
23 disasters or calamities.

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

1 6. In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the legal
2 officer shall:

3 i. Represent the regional autonomous government in all
4 civil actions and special proceedings wherein the
5 autonomous region or any official thereof, in his
6 official capacity, is a party.

7 ii. When required by the Regional Governor, draft
8 ordinances, contracts, bonds, leases and other
9 instruments, involving any interest of the autonomous
10 region and provide comments and recommendations
11 on any instrument already drawn.

12 iii. Render his/her opinion in writing on any question of
13 law when requested to do so by the Regional
14 Governor.

15 iv. Investigate or cause to be investigated any Regional
16 Government official or employee for administrative
17 neglect or misconduct in office, and recommend
18 appropriate action to the Regional Governor as the
19 case may be.

20 v. Investigate or cause to be investigated any person,
21 firm or corporation holding any franchise or exercising
22 any public privilege for failure to comply with any
23 term or condition in the grant of such franchise or
24 privilege by the Regional Government, and

1 recommending appropriate action to the Regional
2 Governor, as the case may be.

3 vi. When directed by the Regional Governor, initiate and
4 prosecute in the interest of the autonomous region
5 any civil action on any bond, lease or other contract
6 upon any breach or violation thereof.

7 vii. Review and submit recommendations on ordinances
8 approved and execute orders issued.

9 6) Regional Treasurer

10 (a) The Regional Treasurer shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a
11 Cordilleran, of good moral character, and a holder of a college degree
12 preferably in commerce, public administration or law from a recognized
13 college or university. He/she must have acquired experience in
14 treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years.

15 (b) The Regional Treasurer shall take charge of the Treasury Office,
16 perform the duties provided for under Book II of the Local Government
17 Code, and shall:

18 1. Advise the Regional Governor and other Regional
19 Government officials concerned regarding the disposition of
20 government funds, and on such other matters relative to
21 public finance.

22 2. Take custody of and exercise proper management of the
23 funds of the autonomous region.

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

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

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

8 7) Regional General Services Officer

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

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

- 19 1. Formulate measures for the consideration of the Regional
20 Governor and provide him technical assistance and support
21 in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic
22 services and provision of adequate facilities pursuant to the
23 Local Government Code and this Organic Act which require
24 general services expertise and technical support services.

- 1 2. Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by
2 the Regional Governor implement the same, particularly
3 those which have to do with the general services supportive
4 of the welfare of the inhabitants which the Regional
5 Governor is empowered to implement.

- 6 3. Be in the frontline of general services related activities, such
7 as the possible or imminent destruction or damage to
8 records, supplies, properties, and structures and the orderly
9 and sanitary clearing up of waste materials or debris,
10 particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and
11 natural calamities and disasters.

- 12 4. Recommend and advise the Regional Governor on all matters
13 relative to general services.

- 14 5. In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the
15 General Services Officer shall:
 - 16 i. Take custody of and be accountable for all
17 properties, real or personal, owned by the
18 autonomous government and those granted to it in
19 the form of donation, reparation, assistance and
20 counterpart of joint projects.

 - 21 ii. With the approval of the Regional Governor, assign
22 building or land space to regional officials, who by
23 law, are entitled to such space. Recommend to the
24 Regional Governor reasonable rental rates for
25 Regional Government properties, whether real or

- 1 personal, which will be leased to public or private
2 entities.
- 3 iii. Recommend to the Regional Governor reasonable
4 rental rates of private properties which may be
5 leased for the official use of the Regional
6 Government.
- 7 iv. Maintain and supervise janitorial, security,
8 government public buildings and other real
9 property, whether owned or leased by the
10 Regional Government.
- 11 v. Collate and disseminate information regarding
12 prices, shipping and other costs of supplies and
13 other items commonly used by the Regional
14 Government.
- 15 vi. Perform archival and record management with
16 respect to records of offices and departments of
17 the Regional Government.
- 18 vii. Perform all other functions pertaining to supply
19 and property management heretofore performed
20 by the Regional Government Treasurer and
21 enforce policies on records creation, maintenance,
22 and disposal.
- 23 viii. Exercise such other powers and perform such
24 other duties and functions as may be prescribed
25 by law or ordinance.

1 Sec. 63. There shall be a Regional Development Council (RDC) which shall
2 function as the main planning and advisory body of the autonomous government,
3 setting the direction of economic and social development of the autonomous region
4 and through which regional development efforts shall be coordinated.

5 Sec. 64. The Regional Development Council, which shall be headed by the
6 Regional Governor, shall be composed of the Regional Governor as chair, Private
7 Sector Representative as co-chair, the Regional Director of NEDA as vice-chair, and
8 the following as members:

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

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

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

16 (d) Regional heads of line agencies who are members of the NEDA Board.

17 (e) The Council may designate special non-voting members (SNVMs)
18 coming from both the public and private sectors, upon concurrence of
19 the majority of its regular members.

20 Sec. 65. The regional office of the National Economic and Development
21 Authority (NEDA) shall serve as the secretariat and technical operations arm of the
22 Council.

1 Sec. 66. The Regional Development Council shall:

2 (a) Coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
3 of short- and long- term regional development plans and investment
4 programs, regional physical framework plans and special development
5 plans, including the formulation of policy recommendations.

6 (b) Integrate approved development plans of provinces and cities, line
7 agencies, state universities and colleges, government owned and
8 controlled corporations and special development authorities in the
9 autonomous region into the regional development plan.

10 (c) Review, prioritize, and endorse to the autonomous government the
11 annual and multi-year sectoral investment programs of the
12 autonomous region for funding and implementation.

13 (d) Review and endorse to the national government the annual budgets of
14 agency regional offices, state colleges and universities and special
15 development authorities.

16 (e) Promote and direct the inflow and allocation of private investments in
17 the autonomous region to support regional development objectives,
18 policies, strategies.

19 (f) Review and endorse national plans, programs and projects proposed
20 for implementation in the autonomous region.

21 (g) As required by the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC), review
22 and endorse projects of national government agencies that have
23 impact on the region and projects of LGUs in the region requiring
24 national government exposure which may come in the form of

1 guarantees, national government budget appropriations or subsidies,
2 among others.

3 (h) Initiate and coordinate the development, funding and implementation
4 of regional and special development projects such as those involving
5 several agencies or LGUs.

6 (i) Coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of development projects
7 undertaken by government agencies, local government units, state
8 colleges and universities, government-owned and/or controlled
9 corporations and special development authorities in the autonomous
10 region.

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

14 Sec. 67. *Creation of Committees.* — The Council shall create appropriate
15 technical and sectoral committees to assist in its work.

16 Sec. 68. *Existing Committees Placed under the RDC.* — Existing regional
17 coordinating committees that are created by various laws and currently attached to
18 specific agencies, and ad-hoc program/project-based steering committees, such as,
19 but not limited to Development Administration Committee, Economic Development
20 Committee, Social Development Committee, Infrastructure Development Committee,
21 Watershed and Environmental Management Committee, Committee on Indigenous
22 Peoples' Concerns, Regional Land Use Committee, Regional Gender and
23 Development Committee, Regional Project Monitoring Committee, Regional
24 Competitiveness Committee, Regional Development Budget Coordinating Committee,
25 Regional Statistical Coordination Committee, and the Cordillera Geographic
26 Information System Network, shall be placed under the umbrella of the RDC.

1 Secretariat work of these inter-agency committees shall continue to be provided by
2 their mother agency.

3 Sec. 69. *Attendance of Representatives to the RDC.* — When the need arises,
4 the Council shall invite the Congressmen of the provinces and cities of the
5 autonomous region.

6 ARTICLE VII
7 THE REGIONAL VICE-GOVERNOR

8 Sec. 70. *Presiding Officer.* — The Regional Vice-Governor shall automatically
9 become the Presiding Officer of the Regional Assembly.

10 Sec. 71. *Functions of the Presiding Officer.* — As the Presiding Officer of the
11 Regional Assembly, the Regional Vice-Governor shall:

12 (a) Sign all warrants drawn on the Regional Treasury Office for all
13 expenditures appropriated for the operation of the Regional Assembly;

14 (b) Subject to civil service law, rules and regulations, and this Organic Act,
15 appoint all officials and employees of the Office of the Regional Vice-
16 Governor, the Regional Assembly and the Office of the Secretary to the
17 Regional Assembly. The appointment of the Secretary to the Regional
18 Assembly shall however require the concurrence of the majority of the
19 members of the Regional Assembly as well as compliance to civil
20 service law, rules and regulations and this Organic Act;

21 (c) Assume the office of the Regional Governor for the unexpired term of
22 the latter in the event of a permanent vacancy as provided in this
23 Organic Act;

1 (d) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the
2 Regional Governor in cases of temporary vacancy as provided in this
3 Organic Act;

4 (e) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions as may be
5 prescribed by an ordinance.

6 ARTICLE VIII

7 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

8 Sec. 72. *Legislative Authority.* — The legislative power of the Regional
9 Government in the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera, shall be vested in the
10 Regional Assembly, except to the extent reserved by the Constitution and this
11 Organic Act on initiative and referendum. Within its territorial jurisdiction and subject
12 to the provisions of the Constitution and national laws, the Regional Assembly of the
13 Autonomous Region of the Cordillera shall have legislative powers over those
14 functions enumerated under Section 25.

15 Sec. 73. *Enactment of Ordinances and Resolutions.* — The Regional Assembly
16 shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general
17 welfare of the region and its inhabitants as well as for the efficient and effective
18 operation of the Regional Government.

19 Sec. 74. *Administrative Support.* — The Regional Assembly shall have an
20 administrative and support staff. Each member shall have at least three (3)
21 confidential Legislative Assistants whose qualifications, rank and salary grade level
22 shall be equivalent to regional executive assistants. Their term of service shall
23 however be coterminous with their overseer.

24 Sec. 75. *Regular and Special Sessions.* — The Regional Assembly shall start
25 its regular session on the first Monday of July, and by resolution fix the day, time

1 and place of its regular sessions, which shall be held at least once a week. However,
2 the Assembly may be called to a special session by the Chairperson or the Regional
3 Governor whenever necessary and a notice of meeting shall be sent to the member's
4 place of residence at least twenty-four (24) hours before the special session is held.
5 Unless otherwise concurred in by two-thirds (2/3) votes of the members, there being
6 a quorum, no other matters may be considered at a special session except those
7 stated in the notice. The Regional Assembly may invite the President and other
8 government officials to address it.

9 *Sec. 76. Sessions and Quorum:*

10 (a) A majority of all the members of the Regional Assembly shall
11 constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may
12 adjourn from day to day, and may compel the attendance of absent
13 members in such manner, and under such penalties as the
14 Assembly may provide.

15 (b) On the first regular session following the election of its members,
16 and within ninety (90) days thereafter, the Regional Assembly shall
17 adopt or update its rules of proceedings which shall include, among
18 other things, the organization of the Assembly and the election of
19 its officers, creation of standing committees, the time, place and
20 manner of convening its regular and special sessions, the conduct
21 and discipline of its members, the conduct and discipline of every
22 person present during its session, the preparation and publication
23 of its journal, the determination of quorum, and the necessary
24 votes to pass any measure, and recall proceedings in accordance
25 with the Local Government Code.

1 Sec. 77. *Ordinance:*

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

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

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

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

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

1 *Sec. 78. People's Question Hour:*

2 (a) There shall be a people's hour at least once a month or as often as
3 the rules of the Regional Assembly may provide, which shall be
4 included in the Order of Business, during which any member of the
5 Cabinet may, upon his own initiative, with the consent of the
6 Regional Governor, or upon the request of the Regional Assembly,
7 appear and answer questions and interpellations by members of the
8 Assembly on any matter pertaining to his department.

9 (b) The Regional Assembly or any of its committees may conduct
10 inquiries in aid of legislation in accordance with its duly published
11 rules of procedure. The rights and dignity of persons appearing in
12 or affected by such inquiries shall be respected.

13 *Sec. 79. Immunity from Suit.* — No member shall be questioned or be held
14 liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Regional Assembly or in any
15 committee thereof.

16 *Sec. 80. Appropriations Ordinance.* — The Regional Assembly shall pass an
17 appropriations ordinance for the ensuing year at or before the end of each year,
18 based on the budget of expenditures and sources of funds submitted to it by the
19 Regional Governor.

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

1 (b) The procedure in approving appropriations for the Regional Assembly
2 shall strictly follow the same procedure for approving appropriations
3 for the regional executive department.

4 (c) A special appropriations ordinance shall specify the purpose for which
5 it is intended, and shall be supported by funds actually available as
6 certified by the Regional Treasurer or to be raised by a corresponding
7 revenue proposal therein.

8 (d) No ordinance shall be passed authorizing any transfer of
9 appropriations. However, the Regional Governor and the presiding
10 officer of the Assembly may, by ordinance, be authorized to augment
11 any item in the general appropriations ordinance for their respective
12 departments from savings in other items of their respective
13 appropriations.

14 (e) The Regional Assembly may not increase the appropriations
15 recommended by the Regional Governor for the operation of the
16 Regional Government as specified in the budget. The form, content
17 and manner of preparation of the budget shall be prescribed by
18 regional law: Provided, however, that pending the enactment of such a
19 regional law, the budgeting process of the Regional Government shall
20 be governed by existing national laws and rules and regulations
21 prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management.

22 *Sec. 81. Expenditure of Public Funds:*

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

1 (b) No money or property shall be appropriated, applied, paid or used,
2 directly or indirectly, for the use, benefit or support, of any sect,
3 church, denomination, sectarian institution, or system of religion or
4 for the use, benefit or support of any priest, preacher, minister or
5 other religious teacher or dignitary as such, except when such
6 priest, preacher, minister or dignitary is assigned to the regional
7 police or government orphanage and rehabilitation centers or
8 similar institutions.

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

14 Sec. 82. *Certified True Copies of Ordinance.* — The Regional Assembly shall,
15 within ten (10) working days from approval thereof, submit to the President and to
16 both Houses of Congress a certified true copy of all ordinances and resolutions it
17 passed.

18 Sec. 83. *Creation of Offices.* — The Regional Assembly may create such other
19 offices and positions as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the regional
20 government subject to availability of funds.

21 Sec. 84. *Secretary to the Regional Assembly.* — There shall be a Secretary to
22 the Regional Assembly with a rank, status and salary grade level equivalent to a
23 head of a regional department. He must be a citizen of the Philippines and a
24 Cordilleran, of good moral character, and a holder of a college degree preferably in
25 law, commerce, public administration, or any other related course from a recognized
26 college or university. He must have at least three (3) years of relevant experience.

1 Sec. 85. *Program for Development.* — Subject to national laws and, sound
2 public administration principles, exercising the corporate powers of the Regional
3 Government under the Constitution and R.A. 7160 of 1991, the Regional Assembly
4 shall evolve a program for generating development financing to accelerate social and
5 economic development in the region and implement the same, and after conducting
6 public consultation. Provided, that when regional revenues are insufficient, the
7 difference shall be funded by the national government.

8 Sec. 86. *Approval of Plans.* — The Regional Assembly shall approve by
9 ordinance the recommended regional physical framework plan, the regional
10 development plan, the regional development investment program, the regional
11 annual investment plan and regional annual budget within the prescribed timetable.

12 Sec. 87. *Enactment of Necessary Legislation.* — When the need arises, the
13 Regional Assembly shall enact ordinances and necessary legislative measures that
14 shall strengthen and supplement the implementation of national laws, devolved
15 functions and address conflicting laws.

16 ARTICLE IX
17 PATRIMONY, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

18 Sec. 88. *Coordination and Cooperation of the Regional Government with the*
19 *National Government to Achieve Quality of Life.* — The Regional Government, with
20 the support of the national government, shall pursuant to regional autonomy and
21 poverty alleviation initiate, stimulate, facilitate, support and coordinate development
22 in the region towards attaining equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and
23 wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services available to
24 Cordillerans and an expanding productivity and income as the key to raising the
25 quality of life for all:

1 a. The national government shall provide financial support and assistance
2 to the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera by appropriating such
3 sums as may be necessary to accelerate the development of the
4 autonomous region, on top of and aside from the Internal Revenue
5 Allotment (IRA) provided therewith and the Local Government Units as
6 well as the allocations already provided through the regional line
7 agencies.

8 b. The national government shall consult and coordinate with the
9 autonomous Regional Government before programs and projects are
10 undertaken in the autonomous region.

11 *Sec. 89. Autonomous Region Cordillera Development Plan.* — The Regional
12 Government through the Regional Development Council shall formulate its
13 development plans taking into consideration the Cordilleran's unique needs and
14 aspirations, consistent with national development goals. The Development Plan shall
15 include the promotion of growth and full employment, human development, and
16 address social and economic inequities that have resulted from decades of neglect,
17 historical injustice, poverty and inequality.

18 *Sec. 90. Control and Supervision over Natural Resources.* — Regional
19 Government shall have control and supervision over natural resources in accordance
20 to this Organic Act.

21 *Sec. 91. Preferential Rights of Cordillerans to Utilize and Develop Natural*
22 *Resources.*— The exploration, development, utilization, and enjoyment of natural
23 resources, shall be allowed to citizens of the Philippines, preferably Cordillerans and
24 to private enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective
25 organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) of their capital investment or capital
26 stocks directly controlled or owned by Cordillerans: Provided that the implementation

1 of programs, projects, and activities related to these natural resources in the region
2 shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution and this Organic Act.

3 Sec. 92. *Comprehensive Framework for Sustainable Development.* — The
4 Regional Government shall develop a comprehensive framework for sustainable
5 development through the proper conservation, utilization and development of
6 natural resources. Such framework shall guide the Regional Government in adopting
7 programs and policies and establishing mechanisms that focus on the environment
8 dimensions of social and economic interventions. It shall include measures for the
9 reduction of vulnerability of women and marginalized groups to climate change and
10 variability.

11 Sec. 93. *Development of Lands 18 Per cent and Above in Slope.* — The
12 Regional Government in partnership with the communities, especially the indigenous
13 peoples or indigenous cultural communities, and their government units, and
14 support of the national government shall adopt measures for the development of
15 communities occupying lands eighteen per cent in slope or over, by providing the
16 necessary infrastructure, financial and technical support.

17 Sec. 94. *Transportation and Communication System.* — The Regional
18 Government shall, in coordination with the national government, establish a
19 transportation and communication system interconnecting the various areas of the
20 autonomous region with each other and to other regions adjacent to the Cordilleras.
21 Likewise, the Regional Government in close coordination with component local
22 government units shall plan, construct, modernize and maintain rural and urban
23 infrastructure facilities and utilities, including alternative transport systems within
24 critical environments.

25 Sec. 95. *Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.* — Subject to ecological
26 considerations, the Regional Government shall adopt and implement a
27 comprehensive rural agrarian reform program, as well as an urban development

1 program consistent with the Constitution and national laws and policies to ensure
2 the just and sustainable utilization of land within its jurisdiction.

3 *Sec. 96. Standards for Environmental Protection.* — The Regional Government
4 shall develop standards pertaining to the protection, conservation, and
5 enhancement, of the environment and natural resources, appropriate to the socio-
6 cultural and environmental uniqueness of the Cordillera.

7 *Sec. 97. Transfer of Existing Nature Reserves and Protected Areas.* — The
8 management and protection of nature reserves and aquatic parks, forests,
9 watershed reservations, and other protected areas in the Autonomous Region that
10 have already been defined by and under the authority of the National Government
11 shall be transferred to the Regional Government.

12 The Regional Transition Committee composed of the Regional Governor,
13 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission on
14 Indigenous Peoples, representatives of IPs and ICCs affected, as well as other
15 relevant government agencies shall cause the process of transferring these areas
16 including the conduct of surveys of all affected areas and the planning and transition
17 for each and every protected area. Such process shall be completed within a period
18 not exceeding two years.

19 *Sec. 98. Policies of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera on Renewable*
20 *and other Energy Resources and Extractive Industries.* — Policies on Renewable and
21 other energy resources and extractive industries shall be drawn up by the Legislative
22 Assembly in accordance with its Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan, as
23 well as its over-all medium-term and long-term Regional Development Plan.

24 *Sec. 99. Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements.* — The applications
25 for financial and technical assistance agreements covering mineral resources within

1 the region shall be commenced at and recommended by the Regional Government
2 to the President.

3 The manner by which the Regional Government shall make the
4 recommendation shall be in accordance with Section 98.

5 Sec. 100. *Participation of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera in*
6 *Government in National Development Planning.* — To ensure that the Regional
7 development plans are reflected in the national development plans, the Regional
8 Government shall participate in national development planning. The Regional
9 Governor shall be a full-fledged member of the Board of the National Economic and
10 Development Authority.

11 ARTICLE X

12 SOURCES OF REVENUES AND OTHER FISCAL MATTERS

13 Sec. 101. *Share from the National Revenues.* — To conserve, protect and
14 develop the national patrimony and heritage located in the Autonomous Region of
15 the Cordillera, and devolved to the region by this Organic Act, and to fund the
16 operations of the Regional Government, the Regional Government shall, in addition
17 to the existing shares of local government units, regional line agencies and other
18 government institutions, have a share of the national revenues which include but not
19 limited to the following:

20 (a) *Two and a half percent (2.5%) of the national Internal Revenue Taxes.*

21 The Regional Government shall have a share in the national internal
22 revenue taxes equivalent to 2.5 percent based on the collection of the
23 third fiscal year preceding the current fiscal year, in addition to the
24 internal revenue allotment shares of the local government units. Eighty
25 percent (80%) of such share shall be appropriated in the annual
26 regional budget for development projects. The internal revenue

1 allotment share of the Regional Government shall be released directly
2 to the Regional Government Treasurer and shall not be subject to any
3 lien or holdback that may be imposed by the national government for
4 whatever purpose.

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

19 Local Government Units shall have a share of one and one-half percent
20 (1.5%) of the gross sales or receipts or fifty percent (50%) of the
21 gross collection, whichever is higher, derived from renewable energy
22 taxes, mining taxes, royalties, forestry and fishery charges, and such
23 other taxes, fees and charges, including related surcharges, interests
24 or fines, and from its share in any co-production, joint ventures or
25 production sharing agreement in the utilization and development of the
26 national wealth within their territorial jurisdiction. This provision shall
27 be applicable to all corporations, partnership, individuals and other
28 entities including government agencies and government owned or
29 controlled corporations engaged in the utilization and development of

1 the national wealth within the region irrespective of existing contrary
2 laws, rules and regulations of national application.

3 (c) *Three percent (3%) share out of the Economic Zones Tax.* The
4 Regional Government shall have a separate three percent (3%) share
5 out of the five percent (5%) final tax on gross income earned or
6 equivalent to sixty percent (60%) of total tax paid by businesses within
7 the economic zones found in the Cordillera, in addition to the existing
8 shares of the local government units. The fund shall be used for Trade
9 and Industry programs.

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

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

17 Local Government Units shall have a separate twenty percent (20%)
18 share of the excess in VAT collections from the immediately preceding
19 year.

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

1 Local Government Units shall have a separate fifteen percent (15%)
2 share from the total excise tax collection on locally manufactured
3 Virginia-type cigarettes for the second year preceding the year of
4 distribution.

5 (f) *Fifteen percent (15%) Share of Incremental Excise Tax in Burley and*
6 *Native Tobacco Products.* The Regional Government shall have a
7 separate fifteen percent (15%) share of the excise tax collected on
8 burley and native tobacco products collected within the region.

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

12 (g) *Forty percent (40%) Share of Renewable and other energy Tax.* The
13 Regional Government shall have a separate forty percent (40%) of the
14 special privilege tax on Renewable and other energy resources
15 developed for the maintenance of watersheds and social and economic
16 development of the upstream host communities.

17 Local Government Units' share from the renewable and other energy
18 resources tax shall be based on the computation provided under the
19 Local Government Code (RA 7160).

20 (h) Three percent (3%) of net income of Philippine Amusement and
21 Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes
22 Office (PCSO) for construction and maintenance of school buildings,
23 hospitals and related structures and services.

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

1 Taxpayers shall pay directly the share of the regional autonomous
2 government except national internal revenue taxes in par (a).

3 Sec. 102. *Sources of Regional Government Revenues.* — The Regional
4 Government shall have the power to create its own sources of revenues and to levy
5 fees, charges and taxes subject to such guidelines and limitations of the Constitution
6 and this Act, consistent with the basic policy of local autonomy and which include
7 but not limited to the following:

- 8 a. Taxes, except income taxes, imposed by the Regional Government;
- 9 b. Fees and charges imposed by the Regional Government;
- 10 c. Taxes, fees, or charges for the registration of motor vehicles and for
11 the issuances of all kinds of licenses or permit for the driving thereof,
12 except tricycles which shall be registered with the city or municipality
13 within whose territorial boundaries they are operated;
- 14 d. Shares and revenue generated from the operations of public utilities
15 within the autonomous region;
- 16 e. Appropriations, shares in the internal revenue taxes, block grants, and
17 other budgetary allocations coming from the central government or
18 national government, and
- 19 f. Block grants derived from economic agreements or conventions
20 entered into or authorized by the Regional Assembly, donations,
21 endowments, foreign assistance, and other forms of aid, subject to the
22 pertinent provisions of the Constitution.

23 Sec. 103. *Situs of Taxation.* — All corporations, partnerships, and other
24 entities, including government agencies, government-owned and -controlled

1 corporations directly engaged in business in the region shall pay their corresponding
2 taxes, fees, and charges to the province, city, municipality or barangays where such
3 establishments are conducting their business operations irrespective of the location
4 of their principal or main offices.

5 Sec. 104. *Appropriations from the National Government to be downloaded to*
6 *the Regional Government:*

7 (a) *Regional line agencies.* The national government shall continue to
8 provide appropriations for the regular operations and programs of line
9 agencies in the region. In addition, each national government agency
10 shall appropriate not less than five percent (5%) of its annual budget
11 to fund priority programs in the region.

12 (b) *Regional structure.* The national government shall continue to provide
13 appropriations for the mandatory organizational structure and positions
14 of the Regional Government.

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

17 Sec. 105. Eighty percent (80%) share of national fees and charges collected
18 within the region (e.g. DOTr, NBI, NSO, BID, PEZA, DFA, DOH, DPWH, DENR, PRC,
19 DOT, DICT, and other collecting agencies) shall be directly remitted to the regional
20 treasury and fifty percent (50%) of this share shall be automatically retained by the
21 collecting agencies to augment their regular operating expenses.

22 Sec. 106. Donations or grants to the region to finance, to provide for, or to be
23 used in undertaking projects in health, education, culture, youth and sports
24 development, human settlements, science and technology, and in economic
25 development, shall be deductible in full in determining the taxable income of the

1 donor or grantor. Provided, that the validation and certification processes for such
2 donations or grants shall have been done according to regional law.

3 Sec. 107. The Regional Government, in accordance with the provisions of the
4 Constitution and national laws and upon the recommendation of the Regional
5 Development Council and ratification of the Regional Assembly, shall evolve a
6 system of economic agreements or trade compacts to generate grants and foreign
7 loans for development of the region.

8 Sec. 108. The Regional Governor may contract loans only in accordance with
9 the provisions of the Constitution and national laws and subject to the approval of
10 the Regional Assembly.

11 Sec. 109. The Regional Assembly shall have the power to grant incentives or
12 exemption on fees and charges which the autonomous region is empowered under
13 this Act to impose. An ordinance granting incentives, exemptions or both shall only
14 be passed with the concurrence of a majority of all the members of the Regional
15 Assembly.

16 Sec. 110. The Regional Government may establish and capitalize a Regional
17 Development Bank which shall administer its own funds. The bank shall be under the
18 supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and under the general banking
19 laws.

20 Sec. 111. The Regional Government shall formulate fiscal and regulatory
21 licensing standards appropriate for the region.

1 ARTICLE XI
2 AGRICULTURE, AGRARIAN REFORM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND
3 COOPERATIVE

4 Sec. 112. *Agrarian Reform and Sustainable Agricultural and Fisheries*
5 *Development.* — Consistent with applicable laws, the Regional Government shall, as
6 a basic policy, promote agrarian reform and sustainable agricultural development
7 within the principles of social equity and poverty alleviation, food security and food
8 sufficiency, global competitiveness, fair trade, rational use of resources.

9 (a) The Regional Government shall ensure that basic agricultural support
10 services and infrastructure be accessible to the small and marginalized
11 farmers and fisher folks. It shall likewise promote agribusiness and full
12 employment based on a sound agricultural development and agrarian
13 reform.

14 (b) The Regional Government shall put special emphasis on production
15 towards self-sufficiency of staple food commodities and shall at all
16 times guarantee the availability, accessibility and affordability of safe
17 food commodities.

18 (c) The Regional Government shall work on the improvement of the
19 quality and value of raw and processed agri-based products as a
20 means to enhance competitiveness of the agriculture and fisheries
21 sectors in the domestic and global markets.

22 (d) The Regional Government shall formulate and implement measures to
23 promote indigenous concept of farming and protect the farmers from
24 unfair trade practices and unfair competition.

25 (e) The Regional Government shall ensure the equitable and rational
26 distribution of public resources and investments in order to obtain the

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

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

6 Sec. 113. *Development of Water Resources.* — The Regional Government
7 shall give top priority to the conservation, protection, testing, utilization and
8 development of water resources for agriculture, fisheries development, domestic
9 water supply and power development. It shall enact appropriate legislation which
10 shall enhance, develop, conserve, and protect natural fishery resources especially on
11 specie endemic to the Cordillera.

12 Sec. 114. *Promoting the Rights of Fisher Folks.* — The Regional Government
13 shall recognize, promote, and protect the rights and welfare of fisher folks, their
14 associations and cooperatives. The provinces and cities concerned shall support to
15 subsistence fisher folk through adequate funds, appropriate technology and
16 research, marketing assistance, and other support services like fishery processing
17 facilities and access to credit.

18 Sec. 115. *Agriculture Production.* — The Regional Government shall pursue
19 the following strategies to develop and increase agricultural productivity.

20 (a) Pursue a multidisciplinary research, development and extension
21 activities to produce and promote technologies and invent machinery
22 and facilities, that will be used to improve productivity and product
23 quality, reduce cost of production, enhance value-addition and improve
24 processing, and enhance abilities to protect the environment and
25 agricultural resources.

1 (b) Initiate, encourage and give highest priority support to small and
2 medium agribusiness enterprises and industries with linkages to
3 agriculture. It shall ensure the allocation of adequate public
4 investments to establish adequate support-agricultural infrastructure
5 and facilities to sustain such ventures.

6 (c) Formulate and implement product standards and regulatory rules that
7 will ensure the production, processing, distribution and marketing of
8 safe and globally-competitive products, and simultaneously promote
9 environmental conservation.

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

16 Section 116. Prevent flight of labor and capital. To promote investments and
17 employment and to prevent flight of capital and labor from the region, the Regional
18 Government shall adopt measures:

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

25 (b) To initiate, encourage and support industrialization in the region,
26 taking into account the culture and capabilities of the people of the

1 area to control or manage their resources, the ecological needs of the
2 area and the protection, conservation and development of resources.

3 Sec. 117. *Eco-cultural Tourism*. — Consistent with the preservation of cultural
4 heritage and the protection of ecology, the Regional Government shall promote eco-
5 cultural tourism in the region. Sites with historical, scientific, cultural significance
6 including natural and man-made landmarks and scenic vistas shall likewise be
7 preserved, maintained and protected.

8 Sec. 118. *Promote Economic Zones*. — The Regional Government shall
9 encourage, promote, establish and develop economic zones, industrial and trade
10 centers, and airports, in strategic areas and growth centers in the region, including
11 the necessary support infrastructure in accordance with land use and other
12 environmental considerations.

13 Sec. 119. *Marketing and Exportation of Indigenous Products*. — The Regional
14 Government shall in coordination with the local government units, encourage
15 investments, development, marketing and exportation of indigenous and other local
16 products in accordance with its development goals and priorities.

17
18 Sec. 120. *Cooperatives*. — The Regional Government shall promote
19 cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority as tools for
20 economic development, social justice, and people empowerment to initiate policies
21 and develop mechanisms to enjoin the participation of the banking sector and
22 financial institutions in the delivery of credit assistance for the establishment and
23 building of rural enterprises and small-medium enterprises (SMEs).

1 ARTICLE XII

2 EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, LANGUAGE, ARTS AND CULTURE AND
3 SPORT

4 Sec. 121. *Jurisdiction over Regional Educational Policies.* — The Regional
5 Government shall have jurisdiction over the formulation of regional educational
6 policies and on the preservation, safeguarding and development of cultural heritage.
7 It shall have the following plans and programs:

8 (a) The establishment of educational institutions, colleges and universities
9 which shall enjoy fiscal and administrative autonomy but subject to
10 regional laws. Existing educational institutions, colleges and universities
11 shall continue to be governed by their respective charters;

12 (b) The Development of curricular programs relevant to the preservation
13 and development of cultural heritage and responsive to the social,
14 economic, political and moral needs of the Cordillerans;

15 (c) The adoption and enactment of educational policies that shall
16 recognize, support, develop and promote existing indigenous system of
17 learning.

18 (d) The creation of Regional Educational Board that will supervise, govern
19 and intervene in the establishment, adoption and implementation of
20 educational policies and programs of both formal and informal
21 education for schools, colleges and universities in the region

22 Sec. 122. *Education with Highest Budget Allocation.* — The Regional
23 Government shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education.

24 Sec. 123. *Exemption from Taxes and Duties.* — Private educational
25 institutions, colleges and universities shall enjoy the protection and support of the

1 Regional Government. All revenues and assets of non-stock, non-profit educational
2 institutions used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes shall be
3 exempt from taxes and duties.

4 *Sec. 124. Creation of Regional Scholarship Committee for Education.* — The
5 Regional Government shall assist the national government to provide free basic
6 education and shall likewise endeavor to provide free tertiary education through
7 scholarship programs, subsidies, research grants and other incentives to poor,
8 gifted, and deserving individuals. Towards this end, there shall be created a Regional
9 Scholarship Committee for Education.

10 *Sec. 125. Rights of Teachers and Parents to Organize.* — The right of
11 teachers, employees, students and parents to organize themselves and to participate
12 in school policy and decision-making shall be guaranteed.

13 *Sec. 126. Culture Sensitive Education.* — The educational system in the region
14 shall develop a program, research, instruction and extension that will promote
15 consciousness and appreciation of the ethnic identity of the people in the region and
16 shall provide a better understanding of their cultural heritage for the attainment of
17 national unity and harmony in all levels of education. It shall provide, promote,
18 enhance or adopt a curriculum in all levels that includes Cordillera languages,
19 customs and traditions and other indigenous knowledge systems and practices, as
20 may be applicable.

21 *Sec. 127. State Colleges and Universities:*

22 (a) State colleges and universities in the region shall form part of the
23 regional educational sub- system of the autonomous region and shall
24 continue to enjoy fiscal and institutional autonomy, continue to be
25 governed by their respective charters and enjoy support of the
26 Regional Government.

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

3 (c) The budget of state colleges and universities in the region while
4 prepared separately shall form part the budget of the Regional
5 Government when presented to congress for approval. The state
6 colleges and universities shall continue to receive funding from the
7 national government while the Regional Government shall provide
8 additional funding.

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

11 Sec. 128. *School Charters*. — Subject to the general supervision of the
12 Regional Government, all schools with charters shall continue to be governed by
13 their respective charters.

14 Sec. 129. *Priority on Indigenous and Appropriate Technology*. — The
15 management of scientific and indigenous research and appropriate technology on all
16 levels of education including research institutions shall be given priority by the
17 Regional Government.

18 Sec. 130. *Intellectual Property Rights*. — Incentives and safeguards for
19 intellectual property rights, and assistance in the registration of patents and
20 copyrights shall be accorded to Cordillera artists, writers, scientists, researchers and
21 inventors.

22 Sec. 131. *Medium of Instruction*. — The Regional Government shall retain
23 English and Filipino as a medium of instruction in all levels of education. Consistent
24 with its regional and cultural identity, and whenever possible, it shall adopt a system

1 of multi-lingual or mother tongue-based approach in basic education to strengthen
2 and enrich the various languages and dialects in the region as well as the national
3 language as maybe appropriate.

4 Sec. 132. *Region-wide Physical Fitness.* — The Regional Government shall
5 design and implement region-wide physical fitness, sports development programs,
6 and indigenous games and sports which shall be a cooperative responsibility of the
7 school, the community, and the government.

8 Sec. 133. *Establishment of Council and Commissions and Center on Research,*
9 *Cultural Heritage and Research.* — The Regional Government shall:

10 a. Establish a Regional Research Coordinating Council, which shall
11 harmonize the research and development efforts of the academe,
12 research institutions, citizen's research, other organizations and
13 community initiated research in the region.

14 b. Establish Cordillera Commission for the Preservation and Promotion of
15 Cultural Heritage Center for the promotion, research, documentation,
16 coordination with other groups and institutions and, establish and
17 maintain a data bank on all indigenous matters

18 ARTICLE XIII
19 SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND WELFARE

20 Sec. 134. *Measures on Social Protection.* — The Regional Government
21 commits itself to social protection and shall among other things, adopt measures to:

22 (a) Empower and improve the quality of life of the poor, disadvantaged,
23 marginalized, and vulnerable individuals, families, sectors and
24 communities of the region.

1 (b) Reduce or eradicate poverty to ensure that all Cordillerans are free
2 from all forms of deprivation, vulnerability, and abuse.

3 (c) Create equal opportunities for assistance and protection for all
4 Cordillerans.

5 (d) Promote gender and development (GAD) through the creation,
6 adoption and sustainability of programs and policies that are gender
7 sensitive.

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

14 Sec. 135. *Equality of Employment Opportunities.* — The Regional Government
15 shall undertake steps to protect the labor sector and promote equality of
16 employment opportunities for all. Towards this end, it shall, among other things,
17 provide for:

18 (a) Participation of the Regional Government in the regional wage board in
19 working out periodic adjustments and rational standardization of
20 compensation rates to ensure a sustainable and decent wage for all
21 workers.

22 (b) Profit and productivity gain-sharing schemes that recognize the right of
23 workers to a just share in the profits and productivity gains of
24 businesses, provide incentives thereof, and the right of the enterprise
25 to reasonable returns on investments.

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

2 (d) Mandatory corporate social responsibility towards employees and host
3 community.

4 Sec. 136. *Hiring of Qualified Cordillerans.* — The Regional Government shall
5 promote the hiring of qualified Cordillerans in government projects and private
6 businesses located in the autonomous region.

7 Sec. 137. *Health as Basic Human Right.* — The Regional Government
8 recognizes health as a basic human right and the attainment, maintenance and
9 protection thereof shall be its responsibility. It affirms health as an instrument for
10 and a product of socio-economic development. For this purpose, it shall, among
11 other things:

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

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

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

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

21 (e) Establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system
22 which shall provide for the adoption of an essential drug list,

1 encourage the use of generic medicines or drugs, and promote the use
2 of herbal medicines and indigenous health resources.

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

5 (g) Evolve financing schemes to effectively lessen the costs of health care
6 without sacrificing the quality of health care services; and

7 (h) Prioritize health by allocating at least 5% of the Regional Annual
8 Budget to form the base of health budget.

9 Sec. 138. *Rights of Workers.* — The Regional Government shall, in
10 consonance with the Constitution, guarantee the rights of all workers to self-
11 organization, collective bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted
12 activities, including those provided by law.

13 Section 139. *Rights of Vulnerable Sectors.* — The Regional Government shall:

14 (a) Promote the well-being of differently-abled persons, the mentally
15 handicapped, the elderly, the homeless, widowed and orphans,
16 retirees, and veterans, adult offenders and children in conflict with the
17 law and victims.

18 (b) Assist victims of calamities, abused and depressed children and women
19 in crisis situations, including victims of adult offenders and children in
20 conflict with the law

21 Sec. 140. *Program for Rebel Returnees.* — The Regional Government shall
22 adopt a social integration program responsive to the needs of rebel returnees
23 including adult offenders and children in conflict with the law.

1 Sec. 141. *Social and Insurance Measures.* — The Regional Government shall
2 adopt insurance and social security measures responsive to the needs of its people
3 to supplement existing privileges.

4 Sec. 142. *Housing Programs.* — The Regional Government, in cooperation
5 with the private sector, shall promote housing programs where needed, which shall
6 be financed under liberal credit terms and shall utilize indigenous materials,
7 architecture and technology. Participation of housing cooperatives to administer the
8 projects shall be encouraged.

9 Sec. 143. *Role of Cordilleran Women.* — The Regional Government shall
10 recognize and strengthen the role of the Cordillera women in nation-building. It shall
11 ensure the full implementation of the Magna Carta of Women and all other existing
12 laws that promote the welfare and protection of women.

13 Sec. 144. *Comprehensive Program on Youth.* — The Regional Government
14 shall establish a comprehensive program on youth development, create the
15 structures to implement the same and appropriate adequate funds to provide
16 support for the program.

17 Sec. 145. *Support to Peoples' Organization.* — The Regional Government shall
18 promote and support duly established peoples' organizations and encourage the
19 formation of organizations, especially those of the underprivileged.

20 ARTICLE XIV
21 PEACE AND ORDER

22 Sec. 146. The Regional Government shall promote and maintain peace and
23 order and public safety in the region. It shall not allow private armies.

1 Sec. 147. The defense and security of the autonomous region shall be the
2 responsibility of the national government with due recognition to recommendations
3 from the Regional Government.

4 Sec. 148. The Regional Government shall have co-management over peace-
5 keeping programs and initiatives and undertake close coordination with the
6 Philippine National Police as well as the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other
7 National Law Enforcement Agencies.

8 Sec. 149. The provisions of the preceding sections notwithstanding, the
9 Regional Governor may request the President of the Philippines to call upon the
10 Armed Forces of the Philippines:

11 (a) To prevent or suppress lawlessness, violence, invasion or rebellion,
12 when the public safety so requires, in accordance with the provisions
13 of the Constitution.

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

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

19 Sec. 150. The Regional Government shall strengthen and enhance indigenous
20 institutions or systems as may be applicable and found to be acceptable and
21 effective in the promotion of social, political, economic and peace and order in the
22 region. It shall provide for a system of incorporating indigenous practices in conflict
23 resolution wherever and whenever applicable.

1 ARTICLE XV
2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

3 Sec.151. This Organic Act shall be officially promulgated in Filipino and
4 English and translated into the languages widely spoken in the autonomous region.
5 In case of conflict, the English text shall prevail.

6 Sec. 152. The Regional Assembly may adopt a new name for the Autonomous
7 Region of the Cordillera after public consultation.

8 Sec. 153. The Regional Government shall have a regional flag, emblem and
9 hymn.

10 ARTICLE XVI
11 PERSONAL, FAMILY, INDIGENOUS AND PROPERTY RELATIONS

12 Sec. 154. Customary laws affecting personal, family, tribal and property
13 relations in the Cordillera shall be recognized.

14 Sec. 155. The family as the basic unit of society shall be protected.

15 Sec. 156. Marriages solemnized in accordance with the indigenous customary
16 laws of the place shall be valid, and the dissolution of such marriages in accordance
17 with these laws shall be recognized.

18 Sec. 157. Settlement of dispute, criminal or civil, done in accordance with
19 customary practices shall be recognized.

20 Sec. 158. Acquisition and encumbrance of property in accordance with
21 customary laws of the place shall be recognized and protected.

1 Sec. 159. Upon agreement of the parties, settlement of disputes involving
2 property rights and ownership shall be governed by the customary laws of the place
3 where the property is located.

4 ARTICLE XVII
5 AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS

6 Sec. 160. Any amendment to, or revision of this Act may be made by
7 Congress upon recommendation of the majority of all members of the Regional
8 Assembly.

9 Sec. 161. Any amendment to or revision of this Organic Act shall become
10 effective when ratified by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite called for the
11 purpose which shall be held not earlier than sixty (60) days nor later than ninety
12 (90) days after the approval of such amendment or revisions.

13 ARTICLE XVIII
14 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

15 Sec. 162. *Coverage of the Plebiscite.* — The coverage of the plebiscite shall
16 be the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, and
17 the chartered City of Baguio. Any two or more provinces and/or cities voting
18 favorably for this Organic Act in the plebiscite shall comprise the Autonomous Region
19 of the Cordillera while those voting unfavorably for this Organic Act in the plebiscite
20 shall revert to their mother region prior to the establishment of the Cordillera
21 Administrative Region.

22 Sec. 163. Unless otherwise provided by law, the date of election of the first
23 set of officials of the Regional Government shall be in the next local election

1 following the ratification of this Organic Act in the plebiscite. Subsequent elections
2 shall coincide with the nationwide local elections.

3 Sec. 164. For purposes of the first regional election, candidates must have
4 actually resided and a registered voter in the region for at least seven (7) years
5 immediately preceding the election. Provided that they meet all other qualifications
6 and none of the disqualifications under Article V of this Organic Act.

7 Sec. 165. Except for the regional line agencies, the Cordillera Executive
8 Board, the Cordillera Regional Assembly, and the Cordillera Bodong Administration
9 as a commission, created under Executive Order No. 220, and the Cordillera
10 Regional Development Council created by Executive Order 30 after the de-activation
11 of the above-mentioned Cordillera bodies, shall cease to exist immediately upon the
12 assumption of office of the Regional Governor.

13 Sec. 166. The seat of the Regional Government of ARC shall be determined
14 by the majority of all members of the Regional Assembly: Provided, however, that
15 the interim seat of the Regional Government shall be in the City of Baguio.

16 Sec. 167. Within one (1) month from the organization of the Regional
17 Government, an Oversight Committee composed of the executive secretary as
18 Chairperson, the secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, the
19 Cordillera Regional Governor, the presiding officer of the Cordillera Legislative
20 Assembly, two (2) senators to be designated by the Senate President, two (2)
21 representatives to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
22 the incumbent Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of the Regional Development
23 Council, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the
24 Chairperson of NCIP as members, shall be organized for the purpose of supervising
25 the transfer to the autonomous region of such powers and functions vested in it by
26 this Organic Act and the appropriations of the offices or agencies including the
27 transfer of properties, assets and liabilities, and all personnel of the line agencies

1 and government-owned or –controlled corporations that may be absorbed by the
2 Regional Government and, with respect to the latter, also the terms and conditions
3 of their turnover, without diminution of their compensation and other benefits.
4 Provided, the salaries of these absorbed personnel shall continue to be funded by
5 the national government.

6 Within six (6) months after its organization, the oversight committee shall
7 submit its report and recommendation to the President of the Philippines who shall
8 act on the report and recommendations within ninety (90) days after receipt thereof:
9 Provided, however, that if the President fails to act within said period, the
10 recommendations of the Oversight Committee shall be deemed approved.

11 Sec. 168. Over and above that regularly given to Local Government Units and
12 regional line agencies, the national government shall continue its annual allotment to
13 the Regional Government. In addition, the national government shall provide the
14 Autonomous Region of the Cordillera an annual assistance of Ten billion pesos (P10,
15 000,000,000.00) for the first five (5) years and Five billion pesos (P5,
16 000,000,000.00) for the next five (5) years to be allocated in the following manner:

17 (a) Twenty percent (20%) of the annual subsidy for the Regional
18 Government shall be for regional infrastructure, livelihood and revenue
19 generating projects.

20 (b) Six percent (6%) of the annual subsidy shall remain with the Regional
21 Government as Trust Fund.

22 (c) The remaining seventy-four percent (74%) of the annual subsidy shall
23 be allocated as follows:

24 1. Twenty-three percent (23%) of the seventy-four percent
25 (74%) shall be divided equally among the Provinces and

1 Highly Urbanized Cities which shall be for infrastructure,
2 livelihood and revenue generating projects.

3 2. Two percent (2%) of the seventy-four percent (74%) for
4 Component Cities which shall be for infrastructure, livelihood
5 and revenue generating projects.

6 3. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the seventy-four percent (74%)
7 shall be divided equally among the Municipalities which shall
8 be for infrastructure, livelihood and revenue generating
9 projects.

10 4. Forty percent (40%) of the seventy-four (74%) shall be
11 divided equally among the barangays for infrastructure,
12 livelihood and revenue generating projects.

13 The projects shall be in accordance with the Regional and Local Development
14 Plans and Budgets as approved by their respective legislative bodies.

15 *Sec. 169. Disclosure and Transparency.* — Funds shall be available exclusively
16 for the specific purpose for which they have been appropriated. Any officer of the
17 Autonomous Region of the Cordillera whose duty permits or requires the possession,
18 custody and disbursement of the funds shall be accountable and responsible thereof.
19 Financial records shall be kept, audited and made public annually or as often as
20 maybe necessary.

21 *Sec. 170.* The share of each local government unit shall be released without
22 need of any further action, directly to the provincial, city, municipal or barangay
23 treasurer, as the case may be on a quarterly basis within five (5) days after the end
24 of each quarter, and which shall not be subject to any lien or hold back that may be
25 imposed by the Regional Government for whatever purpose.

1 Sec.171. The creation of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera shall take
2 effect when approved by a majority of the votes cast by the constituent units
3 provided in Section 3, Article II of this Act, in a plebiscite which shall be held not
4 earlier than three (3) months but not later than six (6) months after this Act takes
5 effect: Provided, that only the provinces and cities voting favorably in such plebiscite
6 shall be included in the ARC.

7 The sum of Two billion six hundred ninety five million (P2, 695,000,000) is
8 hereby appropriated for the following purposes:

9 (a) Twenty million pesos (PhP20,000,000.00) to be allotted to the Regional
10 Development Council for the conduct of a well-coordinated inter-
11 sectoral and inter-agency Regional, Provincial, Municipal and Barangay
12 information campaign on this Act.

13 (b) Seventy million pesos (PhP70, 000,000.00) shall be equitably divided
14 among the provinces and the city for the conduct of IEC purposes.

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

17 (d) Eighty million pesos (PhP80, 000,000.00) to be allotted to the Regional
18 Government for its initial organizational requirements.

19 (e) Two billion five hundred million (P2, 500,000,000) for the construction
20 of the regional government center.

21 Par (a) and (b) shall be released by the DBM to the RDC through NEDA-CAR
22 and (c) to COMELEC upon the effectivity of this Organic Act.

1 The Regional Development Council with the assistance of the Philippine
2 Information Agency, and in consultation with the provincial/city governments, the
3 Cordillera Association of Regional Executives, and other key stakeholders, shall
4 determine the manner of campaigning and the deputization of government agencies,
5 non-government organizations and other stakeholders for purposes of conducting a
6 well-coordinated information campaign within the first three months after the
7 passage of this Act.

8 The amount of Two billion six hundred ninety-five million (P2, 695,000,000)
9 as herein appropriated shall be charged against the contingent fund. Any deficiency
10 thereof shall be taken from any available funds of the national government.

11 Sec. 172. Any provision or part of this Organic Act found to be invalid or
12 unconstitutional shall not invalidate the provisions or parts thereof not affected
13 thereby.

14 Sec. 173. All laws inconsistent with this Organic Act are hereby repealed or
15 modified accordingly.

16 Sec. 174. Creation of a Local Government Center for the Cordillera.

17 ARTICLE XIX

18 EFFECTIVITY

19 Sec. 175. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
20 complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers and all local
21 newspapers of general circulation in the autonomous region.

 Approved,