

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



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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 885

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND MUSLIM AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES AND COMPLAINTS OF THE CUYONON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SURROUNDING THE RENEWAL OF MALAMPAYA SERVICE CONTRACT NO. 38 AND THE 30 JUNE 2023 SELECTION PROCESS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MANDATORY REPRESENTATIVE (IPMR) IN PALAWAN

1 WHEREAS, the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural
2 communities within the framework of national unity and development (Section 22,
3 Article II of the 1987 Constitution) and considers these rights in the formulation of
4 national plans and policies (Section 17, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution);

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to these constitutional mandates, Republic Act No. 8371,
6 otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, was enacted
7 which provides for the legal framework that recognizes, protects, and promotes the
8 rights of Indigenous Peoples including their ancestral domains and it also created the
9 National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) as the implementing agency;

10 WHEREAS, the Cuyonons are among the indigenous ethnolinguistic groups who
11 reside in Cuyo Islands, as well as northern and central Palawan;

12 WHEREAS, the Senate was in receipt of complaints regarding the (1) issuance
13 by the NCIP of a Certificate of Non-Overlap on the renewal of Service Contract No. 38
14 which allows for the continued production of the Malampaya gas field, and (2) alleged

1 irregularities in the conduct of the 30 June 2023 selection process of the Indigenous
2 Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) in Palawan;

3 WHEREAS, the Cuyonons of Palawan allege that the IPMR selection process did
4 not adhere to customary laws and practices, resulting in the disenfranchisement of
5 traditional leaders and their exclusion from meaningful participation;

6 WHEREAS, the right to participate in decision-making is a guaranteed right
7 pursuant to Section 16 of the IPRA which states that Indigenous Cultural
8 Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) have the right to participate fully, if they
9 so choose, at all levels of decision-making in matters which may affect their rights,
10 lives and destinies through procedures determined by them as well as to maintain and
11 develop their own indigenous political structures. Consequently, the State shall ensure
12 that the ICCs/IPs shall be given mandatory representation in policy-making bodies and
13 other local legislative councils;

14 WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing issues, there is a need to examine and review
15 the IPRA as well as the mandate of the NCIP in the protection of the rights and welfare
16 of the IPs with the end in view of improving the provisions of the IPRA: Now, therefore,
17 be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the Committee on
19 Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation,
20 on the alleged irregularities and complaints of the Cuyonon Indigenous Peoples
21 surrounding the renewal of Malampaya Service Contract No. 38 and the 30 June 2023
22 selection process of the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) in
23 Palawan.

Adopted,



ROBINHOOD PADILLA
Senator