

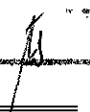
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL -8 AM 29

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 841

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution has very wisely given the highest priority to the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous cultural communities to ensure their economic, social and cultural well-being.

Various provisions for the promotion of the rights and welfare of the members of the indigenous cultural communities are enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. Hence, it is imperative upon the government to adopt policies and programs for indigenous cultural communities. But to ensure that these programs are based on facts and an enlightened judgment, it is necessary to have a continuing in-depth study of the indigenous cultural communities, who should also participate in such study.

To serve this purpose, this proposed measure seeks to create a center for studies on indigenous cultural communities. The said center will conduct research and policy studies to proactively and effectively respond to and address the needs of its beneficiaries.

The early passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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AN ACT  
CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE CENTER FOR STUDIES ON  
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**SECTION 1.** There is hereby created a Philippine Center for Studies on Indigenous Cultural Communities, hereinafter referred to as "Center", in the University of the Philippines.

**SEC. 2.** The Center shall conduct research and policy studies for the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous cultural communities to ensure their economic, social and cultural well-being and provide an opportunity to both Muslims and non-Muslims to participate in the national life and development.

**SEC. 3.** The Center shall be composed of the existing Institute of Islamic Studies in the University of the Philippines and an Institute of Studies on Non-Islamic Cultural Communities in the Cordilleras and other regions.

**SEC. 4.** The Center shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the President, with the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments, for a term of five (5) years, from among the members of the faculty of the University of the Philippines and other state colleges and universities. The faculty member appointed as executive director shall, during his service as such, be deemed as on leave from his position as faculty member.

**SEC. 5.** The Center shall organize annually a national conference on indigenous cultural communities and of officers, organizations and academic institutions with functions, activities and/or programs related to these communities.

The agenda of the conference shall be the studies of these communities. In addition to recommendations on further studies, the conference shall also make recommendations for policies and programs for indigenous cultural communities.

**SEC 6.** To carry out the purpose of this Act, the sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year two thousand and ten (2010).

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act as approved by Congress.

**SEC. 7.** Should any part, section or provision of this Act be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC. 8.** All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*