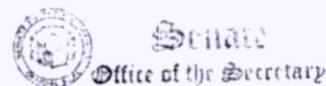


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'19 JUL 23 P5:14

SENATE  
S. B. No. 706

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

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

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

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

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



**SONNY ANGARA**

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

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Resource Centers for  
2 *Indigenous Peoples Act of 2019.*"

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

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

1           Sec. 4. *Staff and Components of the ICC/IP Resource Centers.* – The  
2 Commission shall designate in every Center a Chief Coordinating Officer. Concerned  
3 government departments and agencies and local governments shall assign staff  
4 members to the Resource Centers.

5           Sec. 5. *Composition and Functions of the Center.* – The Center shall be  
6 composed of the following three (3) major service areas and their respective  
7 functions, namely:

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

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

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

20           Sec. 6. *Monitoring Progress and Implementation and Impact of this Act.* – The  
21 Commission shall submit to Congress every three (3) years or as determined in the  
22 implementing rules and regulations, an annual report of its accomplishments.

23           Sec. 7. *Funding.* – The initial funding requirements for the implementation of  
24 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the agencies  
25 concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued  
26 implementation shall be included in the agencies' yearly budgets under the General  
27 Appropriations Act.

28           Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90) days  
29 after the approval of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the following  
30 concerned government agencies, to wit: Local Government Units (LGUs), Philippine  
31 Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),  
32 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of

1 Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Commission on  
2 Human Rights (CHR), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Labor and  
3 Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of  
4 Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),  
5 Department of Agriculture (DA), Land Management Bureau (LMB), Land Registration  
6 Authority (LRA), and such other concerned agencies, shall issue the necessary Rules  
7 and Regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

8       Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
9 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are  
10 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

11       Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees,  
12 executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or  
13 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this  
14 Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

15       Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
16 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,