

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



16 JUL 28 AM 10

**SENATE**

S.B. No. 912

BY:

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**Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA**

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**AN ACT TO INCLUDE ETHNIC ORIGIN IN THE NATIONAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the recognition and promotion of the rights of indigenous cultural communities and the development of their cultures, traditions and institutions within the framework of national unity and development. It enjoins the State to protect the rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being.

The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) or Republic Act 8371 further strengthens this mandate by providing that, "the State shall, with due recognition of their distinct characteristics and identity, accord to the members of the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs) the rights, protections, and privileges enjoyed by the rest of the citizenry. It shall extend to them the same employment rights, opportunities, basic services, educational and other rights and privileges available to every member of the society." Moreover, the law recognizes that, "ICCs/IPs have the right to special measures for the immediate, effective, and continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions, including areas of employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health, and social security."

The successful implementation of laws, however well meaning they are, is anchored on the possession of relevant and accurate data, which is the basis of sound policies that in turn are translated into effective and targeted action. To date, the government, particularly the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), relies on estimates based on outdated figures. More than a decade has passed since the recognition of the rights of the IPs through the passage of IPRA but there is still disaggregated data on the exact population of our indigenous brothers and sisters.

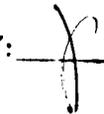
This bill seeks to formally include the ethnicity and ethno-linguistic variable in our national census. Furthermore, it requires that there be enumerators or census data gatherers who are trained by the NCIP on the different ethno-linguistic groups all over the country and the proper manner of asking culturally-sensitive questions pertaining to ethnicity. It is only through this knowledge that we can effectively make policies that will truly promote their welfare and address their pressing needs. In view of the following, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Ethnic Origin Act.”

2  
3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to recognize and  
4 promote the rights of indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural communities  
5 within the framework of national unity and development. The State shall give  
6 the highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the  
7 right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political  
8 inequalities, and remove cultural inequities.

9  
10 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall  
11 mean the following:

12 (a) “Ethnic Origin or Ethnicity” includes nationality and ethno-linguistic  
13 origin.

- 14 • “Indigenous Peoples (IPs) or Indigenous Cultural Communities  
15 (ICCs)” shall, as provided under Section 3 (h) of Chapter II of RA  
16 No. 8371 or the “Indigenous People’s Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997,”  
17 refer to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by  
18 self-ascription by others, who have continuously lived as an  
19 organized community on communally-bounded and defined  
20 territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time  
21 immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories,  
22 sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions, and other  
23 distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to  
24 political, social, and cultural inroads of colonization, non-  
25 indigenous religions and cultures, became historically  
26 differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICCs and IPs shall  
27 likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on  
28 account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the  
29 country, at the time of conquest or colonization, or at the time of  
30 inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the  
31 establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all  
32 of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions,  
33 but who may have been displaced from their traditional domains or  
34 who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains;

35  
36 **Sec. 4. Duty of the Philippine Statistics Authority.** – It shall be the duty of  
37 the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in coordination with the National  
38 Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), to ensure the employment of

1 enumerators, or the deployment of NCIP employees, who are knowledgeable of  
2 the different IPs and ICCs of the Philippines, and the language and appropriate  
3 manner of asking culturally-sensitive questions to IPs and ICCs, in gathering  
4 data on Ethnic Origin during the conduct of the national survey and national  
5 census. Furthermore, the PSA should ensure that all surveys and documents  
6 issued by their office should be culturally sensitive.

7  
8 **Sec. 5. Duty of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.** – It shall  
9 be the duty of the NCIP to conduct the proper training of PSA enumerators,  
10 including the barangay indigenous guides, all over the country to ensure that  
11 they have adequate knowledge of the different IPs and ICCs in their area, their  
12 language, way of life, and culture, and the manner of asking them culturally-  
13 sensitive questions.

14  
15 An indigenous guide in each barangay, or any officer or member of the  
16 concerned Local Culture and Arts Council or Local Tourism Council, as the  
17 case may be, shall also be trained by the NCIP, who may assist the city or  
18 municipal government in the conduct of cultural mapping within a local  
19 government unit.

20  
21 **Sec. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount of one hundred million pesos  
22 (P100,000,000) that shall be given to PSA for the training of PSA enumerators  
23 shall be charged against any available appropriation in the General  
24 Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year of its implementation. Thereafter, such  
25 sums as be necessary shall be included in the yearly General Appropriations  
26 Act.

27  
28 **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The PSA, with the assistance  
29 of the NCIP, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and  
30 regulations within 90 days from the effectivity of this Act.

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32 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of the Act is declared  
33 void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not  
34 be affected by such declaration.

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36 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – Any provision of law or regulations inconsistent  
37 herewith is hereby repealed, revoked, or modified accordingly.

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39 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
40 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

41  
42 Approved,