

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

House Bill No. 3758

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the 'Indigenous Peoples Rights Act' (IPRA), was enacted into law in 1997 to give effect to the constitutional recognition and cognizance to the estimated 12 to 15 million Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs) present in 48 provinces and 13 cities nationwide. Said law provides for the creation of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) as its implementing agency. Eventually, various national, regional, grassroots and non-government organizations/networks were established, all geared towards their recognition, promotion and well-being. Likewise, numerous international treaties, conventions and declarations with similar objectives were entered into by the government.

Despite concerted efforts exerted by the government, in partnership with various private organizations and adequate financial support from international communities, still they remain the poorest and marginalized sectors of our society. Basic services remain wanting in most geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). Further, the reported serious human rights violations, displacement from their ancestral domain and destruction of their natural environment and cultural values, calls for immediate and drastic measures to address the same.

Pursuant to the foregoing reasons, there is a need to establish Resource Centers in all ICCs/IPs which are ethnographically located, gender and rights based, as may be determined by the NCIP. The centers shall serve as access centers to enhance delivery of basic, social, technical and legal services. It shall be composed of the following service areas, namely: Statistical Service Area, Human Development Index Service Area and Domains Management Service Area. The NCIP shall provide the necessary officers and staff of the resource centers.

In view of the foregoing and to hasten the improvement of the quality of life of our indigenous peoples, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Resource Centers for Indigenous Peoples Act".

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

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

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

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

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

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

C) Domains Management Service Area - promotion of participatory programs, projects and activities for ICCs/IPs to effectively deliver their responsibility of maintaining ecological balance, restore denuded areas, observe laws, and ensure the implementation of the

Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protections Plans and such other existing programs.

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

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

**SEC. 8.** Implementing Rules and Regulations - Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the following concerned government agencies, to wit: Local Government Units (LGUs), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agriculture (DA), Land Management Bureau (LMB), Land Registration Authority (LRA), and such other concerned agencies, shall issue the necessary Rules and Regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 9.** Repealing Clause. - All laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 10.** Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provisions thereof shall be affected thereby.

**SEC. 11.** Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,