

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**

First Regular Session

House Bill No: **3919**



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**Introduced by REP. MERCEDES C. CAGAS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to provide benefits to the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Davao del Sur.

Many of these minorities are unable to gain access to sufficient training and education, giving them less chance for employment and making them more vulnerable to poverty. If social justice is to be achieved, the benefits of education should be extended to the IPs who are naturally living in remote areas of our country.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 22 of the 1987 Constitution, the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. Furthermore, as provided by the Republic Act No. 8371, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) shall protect and promote the interest and well-being of the IPs with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions. Whereas, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority is tasked to manage and supervise technical education and skills development in the country.

It is therefore the intent of this bill to recognize the rights of the IP, by providing an avenue of learning for the IPs through the agencies of the government. Their participation to nation building shall be equally recognized as they are significant part of the Philippines' culture and heritage.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**MERCEDES C. CAGAS**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES TRAINING AND LEARNING CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF  
DAVAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 "Davao del Sur Indigenous Peoples Training and Learning Center."

**SECTION 2.** Declaration of Policy: There shall be established, through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) jointly with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), an indigenous training and learning center in Davao del Sur where the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) live. It shall provide the IPs livelihood opportunities, through education, seminars, and literacy programs for language and cultural preservation.

**SECTION 3.** Definition of Terms: For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall mean as herein defined:

- a. *Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples* - refer to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by other, who have continuously lived as organized community on communally bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed customs, tradition and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and culture, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICCs/IPs shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the establishment of present



state boundaries, who retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains;

- b. *National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)* - refer to the office created under Republic Act No. 8371, which shall be under the Office of the President. It shall be the primary government agency responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programs to promote and protect the rights and well-being of the IPs and the recognition of their rights.

**SECTION 4.** Agencies Concerned: The NCIP shall coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the construction of the building where the skills trainings and learning sessions shall be conducted. The NCIP shall ensure that there will be enough equipment or materials for trainings and learning sessions.

**SECTION 5.** Appropriations: Funding of which shall be charged to the appropriations for TESDA and NCIP under the General Appropriations Act. The local government concerned shall also set aside funds from any available local revenues in an amount deemed appropriate for their operationalization and maintenance.

**SECTION 6.** Separability Clause: If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provision thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in force and effect.

**SECTION 7.** Repealing Clause: All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations, contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 8.** Effectivity: This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official gazette or in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,