

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Cotabato City

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(Second Regular Session)

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Monday, the twenty eight day of April, nineteen hundred and ninety seven.

[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 57]

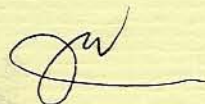
AN ACT CREATING A REGIONAL ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (RAPC) IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, DEFINING ITS COMPOSITION, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Regional Legislative Assembly in session assembled:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the declared policy of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to institute an in-depth studies on the root causes of problems in the region and formulate its solutions to promote and uplift the dignity and welfare of people in all walks of life. Towards this end, the Regional Government shall give its full support and cooperation to the program by coordinating with the national government in the formulation and implementation of the different projects geared towards the eradication of poverty which exist since time immemorial.

SEC. 2. Creation. - To realize this policy, there is hereby created a Regional Anti-Poverty Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission" which shall be under the supervision of the Regional Governor.

SEC. 3. Aims and Purposes. - The Aims and Purposes of the Commission are the following:



1. Motivate and encourage the poor as people to stand and assert their rights to live and lead a decent life through active involvement and participation in community development and in any forum;
2. Create access to employment opportunities for the poor through self-employment by providing integrated loan assistance program;
3. Eradicate the old-age exploitation and discrimination to the poor by unscrupolous leaders and usurers through the establishment of systematic and comprehensive credit program;
4. To help fast-track government projects geared towards combatting, eradicating or alleviating poverty.
5. To encourage and train our constituents to fight poverty by providing them job and livelihood opportunities and to properly utilized their own basic knowledge, labor and time.
6. To coordinate and cooperate with the national government in the implementation of its programs on poverty alleviation in the ARMM.

SEC. 4. Composition. - The Commission shall be composed of one (1) Chairman and four (4) Commissioners who shall all be appointed by the Regional Governor: Provided, however, that all the major tribes in the Autonomous Region shall be represented in the hierarchy of the Commission.

SEC. 5. Qualifications and Appointment. - No person may be appointed as Chairman or Member of the Commission unless he possesses the following qualifications:

1. Natural-born citizens of the Republic of the Philippines;
2. Resident and registered voter of the Autonomous Region for at least five (5) years;
3. At least twenty-five (25) years of age on the day of his appointment;

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4. The Chairman and the Commissioners must be at least a holder of a Master of Arts Degree.

Appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Commission shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

SEC. 6. Compensation. - The Chairman shall receive an annual compensation of One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand (P144,000.00) Pesos. While the Commissioners shall receive an annual compensation of One Hundred Thousand (P100,000.00) Pesos each. Such salaries are subject to across-the-board increase and adjustment as may be allowed by law and existing rules and regulations. In addition, each shall be entitled to all benefits and privileges corresponding to their respective positions as may be authorized by law.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions. - The Chairman shall be the administrative head of the Commission and shall be assisted by the Commissioner as member in the performance of his duties. Specifically, the Chairman shall exercise the following powers and functions:

1. Approve and sign voucher, payroll, check, RIV and other disbursement documents as may be authorized by law;
2. Appoint, or for cause, terminate, suspend or discipline personnel of the commission;
3. Formulate and adopt a plan for the poor participation and involvement in government organizations, non-government organizations, and people's organizations;
4. Organize non-governmental organizations, such as: cooperatives, foundations, associations, councils and establish the municipal, provincial and regional centers for the poor;
5. Represent the poor sector of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in regional, national and international conferences or fora;
6. Coordinate with other sectors for communal development;

7. Act as ex-officio member of the Regional Planning Development Board;
8. Protect the poor segment from the abuses and undue exploitation of the rich and seek justice to redress their grievances in any court, forum or government offices within the Constitution and laws of the Philippines; and
9. Perform such other related functions and activities as may be assigned by the Regional Governor from time to time.

SEC. 8. Staff. - The Commission shall be backstopped by planning, education and trainings, administrative and finance divisions with allowable extended staff of at least eighteen (18) members each, without prejudice to employment of additional personnel when the need may arise.

SEC. 9. Coordination. - The Commission shall coordinate closely with the regional line agencies, such as: Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Cooperative Development Authority and to all concerned NGOs and People's Organizations to uplift and advance the welfare and livelihood of the poor in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SEC. 10. Source of Funds. - For the initial organization and operation of the Commission, the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,500,000.00) shall be funded out of the unappropriated portions of the local funds of the Autonomous Regional Government of the ARMM which is hereby appropriated for the purpose, and/or the Office of the Regional Governor shall incorporate the same for subsequent budgetting from the National Government. The Commission shall likewise be authorized to solicit and generate any form of assistance from philanthropic organizations of both national and international donors to augment its funding initial requirement.


SEC. 11. Audit. - All financial accounts and expenditures of the office shall be audited by the Commission on Audit.



SEC. 12. Separability Clause. - If any part or a section or provision hereof shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other part, section or provision thereof shall remain valid and effective or provision of this act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision thereof shall be affected thereby.

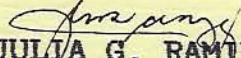
SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

APPROVED:




KABILAN G. SEMA
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on October 2, 1997.



JULIA G. RAMIREZ
Officer In-Charge
Office of the Secretary

APPROVED:



PROF. NUR MISUARI
Regional Governor
Date: _____

10 Nov. 1997
H.D.M.

