

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'14 MAY -6 P3:25

SENATE

S.B. NO. 2209

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Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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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

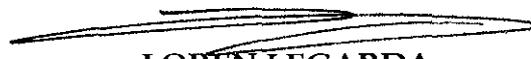
### EXPLANATORY NOTE

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 an 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.

  
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 "Resource Centers for  
2 Indigenous Peoples Act of 2014".

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 government's  
8 basic services and enable them to be recognized and counted and have freedom to  
9 engage in participatory development programs, projects and activities.

10           **SEC. 3. Establishment of Resource Centers for ICCs/IPs.** - There shall be  
11 established ICCs/IPs Resource Centers, hereinafter referred to as the "Center", in  
12 strategic places as determined by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples  
13 (NCIP), hereinafter referred to as the "Commission", taking into consideration their  
14 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 functions,  
7 namely:

8                   A) Statistical Service Area - documentation and recognition of ICCs/IPs,  
9 their 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  
12 ICCs/IPs and provide basic and necessary services through link-up with  
13 concerned government department and agencies, such as training programs,  
14 grant of scholarships, employment, livelihood and enterprises and health  
15 services; and

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

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

24           **SEC. 7. Funding.** - The initial funding requirements for the implementation of  
25 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the agencies concerned.

1 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation, shall be  
2 included in the agencies' yearly budgets under the General Appropriations Act.

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

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

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

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

23         **Approved,**

**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator