

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4118



Introduced by Rep. **ALLEN JESSE C. MANGAOANG**

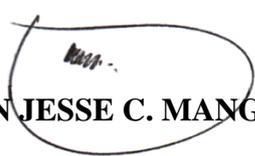
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art. II, Sec. 22 of the Philippine Constitution declares that the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. To give effect to this Constitutional mandate, Republic Act 8371, otherwise known as the “Indigenous People’s Rights Act” (IPRA), was enacted. This ground breaking legislation, which also created the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) as the implementing agency, was designed to stop the prejudice against the IPs and accelerate their emancipation from the bondage of inequity.

And yet, twenty five years later after the law was signed, the IPs remain as the most marginalized sector of our society. To date, very limited development activities in support of the ancestral domain management has been implemented. In addition, IPs are continuously facing challenging issues, such as human rights violations, discrimination, displacement from their ancestral domains and exploitation and destruction of their natural environment.

To address these issues and to hasten the improvement of the quality of life of the IPs, it is imperative to establish resource centers in every Indigenous Cultural Communities to serve as their access centers in the delivery of basic, technical and legal services.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALLEN JESSE C. MANGAOANG

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13 **AN ACT**
14 **ESTABLISHING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL**
15 **COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO ENHANCE AND ENSURE THE**
16 **DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**
17 **THEREFOR**
18

19
20 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
21 *Congress assembled:*

22 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as “Resource Centers for
23 Indigenous Peoples Act.”

24 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes and promotes the rights of
25 indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) and indigenous peoples (IPs) within the framework of
26 national unity and development. Further, the State considers the rights of the ICCs/IPs in the
27 formulation of national laws and policies to ensure the protection of their rights, preservation
28 of their cultural heritage, equal access to basic services, and equitable enjoyment of the rights
29 and opportunities granted under national laws on an equal footing with the other members of
30 the population. Towards this end, and taking into consideration the ICCs/IPs common
31 geographical areas, distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures
32 and other relevant and distinctive characteristics, there is a need to establish resource centers
33 in all the ethnographic locations nationwide to enhance the delivery of basic services and enable
34 the ICCs/IPs to be recognized and integrated in the government’s participatory programs,
35 projects and activities.

1 **SEC. 3. *Resource Centers for ICCs/IPs.*** – Resource centers for ICCs/IP shall be
2 established in strategic places as may be determined by the National Commission on
3 Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), taking into consideration the ethnological similarities of the IPs
4 and contiguous or common geographical locations of the ICCs. The resource center shall be
5 under the jurisdiction of the NCIP.

6 **SEC. 4. *Staff of the ICC/IP Resource Centers.*** – Plantilla positions of chief
7 coordinating officer and additional staff members, as may be determined by the NCIP,
8 necessary for the operation of the resource centers shall be created under the supervision of the
9 NCIP.

10 **SEC. 5. *Service Areas of the Resource Center.*** – A resource center is composed of
11 the following major service areas with their respective functions:

12 a) *Statistical Service Area* which is responsible for the documentation and
13 recognition of ICCs/IPs, their indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSPs), political
14 structures and codification of their customary laws through census, appraisal and baseline
15 reports and libraries for registration with the NCIP;

16 b) *Human Development Index Service Area* which addresses problems of
17 ICCs/IPs and provision of basic and necessary services through coordination with concerned
18 government agencies with regard to training programs, scholarship grants, employment,
19 livelihood and enterprises and health services;

20 c) *Domains Management Service Area* which is tasked with the promotion of
21 participatory programs, projects and activities for ICCs/IPs to effectively deliver their
22 responsibility of maintaining ecological balance, reforesting denuded areas, observing the laws,
23 and ensuring the implementation of the Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and
24 Protections Plans, and such other existing and relevant programs.

25 The NCIP shall coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways
26 (DPWH) for the construction of the resource centers.

27 **SEC. 6. *Programs and Seminars.*** – The NCIP shall, in coordination with the Technical
28 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), ensure that the programs and seminars
29 formulated are suitable and relevant to the needs of the ICCs/ IPs. The ICCs/IPs shall determine
30 for themselves the types of skills training that are applicable to their circumstances. The NCIP

1 and TESDA shall set criteria in the hiring of competent instructors and teachers from within
2 the ICCs/IPs to teach and promote their language to their students, particularly the youth, in
3 order to preserve their culture. The NCIP shall ensure that the ICCs/IPs' unique identities are
4 strengthened and preserved in the conduct of the community-driven learning programs and
5 livelihood seminars.

6 **SEC. 7. *Monitoring and Impact Assessment.*** – The NCIP shall conduct a review of
7 the implementation of this Act and submit to Congress a periodic report every three (3) years,
8 reckoned from the effectivity of this Act. The review must ascertain the strengths and viability,
9 flaws or limitations, and opportunities for growth and development in the operation of the
10 resource centers. The review shall also determine the inherent weaknesses in the law and
11 recommend the necessary remedial legislation or executive measures for the sustainability of
12 the resource centers.

13 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The initial funding requirements for the implementation
14 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the NCIP, TESDA, and
15 DPWH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this
16 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** – Within ninety (90) days after
18 the approval of this Act, the chairperson of the NCIP shall, in coordination with the Director
19 General of TESDA and the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, issue the necessary rules
20 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

21 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
22 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full
23 force and effect.

24 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations,
25 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby
26 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

27 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
28 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

29 ***Approved,***