

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION )

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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SENATE NO. 907

INTRODUCED BY SEN. AGUILINO G. PIMENTEL, JR.

AN ACT  
TO ADOPT AN ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION  
IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
PHILIPPINES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

1 ORGANIC ACT OF THE  
2 AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

3 PREAMBLE

4 WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM  
5 MINDANAO, IMPLORING THE AID OF ALMIGHTY GOD, IN ORDER TO  
6 DEVELOP A JUST AND HUMANE SOCIETY AND ESTABLISH AN AUTONOMOUS  
7 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT IS TRULY REFLECTIVE OF OUR IDEALS AND  
8 ASPIRATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE  
9 NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AS WELL AS THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF  
10 THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND SECURE TO OURSELVES AND OUR  
11 POSTERITY THE BLESSINGS OF AUTONOMY, DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND  
12 EQUALITY, DO ORDAIN AND PROMULGATE THIS ORGANIC ACT.

13 ARTICLE I

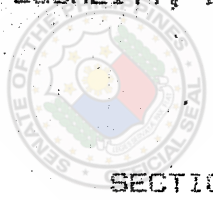
14 NAME

15 SECTION 1. THE NAME OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE  
16 THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO UNLESS PROVIDED  
17 OTHERWISE BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

18 ARTICLE II

19 TERRITORY AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

20 SECTION 1. A) THE TERRITORY OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN  
21 MUSLIM MINDANAO SHALL COMPRISE ONLY THE PROVINCES AND CITIES



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1 VOTING FAVORABLY IN THE PLEBISCITE CALLED FOR THE RATIFICATION  
2 OF THE ORGANIC ACT.

3 B) THE AREA OF THE PLEBISCITE SHALL BE THE CHARTERED  
4 CITIES OF ZAMBOANGA AND COTABATO, THE PROVINCES OF BASILAN,  
5 SULU, TAWI-TAWI, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, LANA  
6 DEL NORTE, LANA DEL SUR, MAGUINDANAD, NORTH COTABATO, SULTAN  
7 KUDARAT, SOUTH COTABATO, AND DAVAO DEL SUR WITH THE COMPONENT  
8 CITIES THEREIN OF PASADIAN, DIPOLOS, DAPITAN, ILIGAN, MARAWI,  
9 GENERAL SANTOS AND PALAWAN, INCLUDING THE CITY OF PUERTO  
10 PRINCESA.

11 SECTION 2. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL FIX  
12 THE PERMANENT SEAT OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION;  
13 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE REGIONAL  
14 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL BE HELD IN THE CITY OF COTABATO  
15 WHICH SHALL LIKEWISE BE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT UNTIL A  
16 PERMANENT SITE IS FIXED BY REGIONAL LAW.

17 ARTICLE III

18 DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND REGIONAL POLICIES

19 SEC. 1. THE AREA OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE AN  
20 INALIENABLE PART OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
21 PHILIPPINES.

22 THE INHABITANTS OF THE REGION SHALL UPHOLD THE  
23 CONSTITUTION AS THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE LAND.

24 THIS AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE  
25 WITH THIS ORGANIC ACT SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL  
26 LAWS.

27 SEC. 2. THE AUTONOMOUS REGION VALUES THE DIGNITY OF ITS  
28 INHABITANTS AND GUARANTEES IN ADDITION TO THE RIGHTS SECURED BY  
29 THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC, FULL RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.  
30 IT UPHOLDS THE SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICTS BY PEACEFUL MEANS, AND  
31 RENOUNCES ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE AS AN INSTRUMENT TO REDRESS.

32 SEC. 3. PUBLIC SERVICE IS A SACRED TRUST, AND GRAFT AND

1 CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT AND IN ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY ARE  
2 REPUDIATED.

3 SEC. 4. THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING OF THE YOUTH IS A  
4 PRIMORDIAL TASK OF THE AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT. PARENTS,  
5 HOWEVER, HAVE THE PRIOR RIGHT TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN.

6 SEC. 5. PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION  
7 SHALL BE ADOPTED IN STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
8 DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE IN THE GOVERNANCE  
9 OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

10 SEC. 6. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ADOPT A  
11 POLICY ON LOCAL AUTONOMY AND ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE FOR ALL  
12 LOCAL POLITICAL UNITS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO SHARING OF RESOURCES  
13 WITH LESS ENDOWED AREAS WITHIN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

14 SEC. 7. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ADOPT  
15 MEASURES TO ENSURE MUTUAL RESPECT FOR AND PROTECTION OF THE  
16 DISTINCT BELIEFS, CUSTOMS, AND TRADITIONS AMONG ITS INHABITANTS  
17 IN THE SPIRIT OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE.

18 SEC. 8. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ADOPT  
19 WHEREVER FEASIBLE A POLICY OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION IN ALL  
20 UNITS OF GOVERNMENT AMONG ITS INHABITANTS; PROVIDED HOWEVER,  
21 THAT ON NO ACCOUNT MAY ANY GROUP BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FOR  
22 REASONS OF CREED OR TRIBAL IDENTITY.

23 SEC. 9. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ENSURE  
24 THAT THE RESIDENTS OF THE REGION WILL HAVE PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS  
25 IN THE EXPLORATION, UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS NATURAL  
26 RESOURCES WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS  
27 INHABITANTS OF THE AREA DESIGNATED BY LAW AS ANCESTRAL DOMAIN.

28 SEC. 10. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ADOPT  
29 LAWS THAT WILL SAFEGUARD THE WORKERS' RIGHTS IN ALL ASPECTS OF  
30 LABOR RELATIONS AND ENSURE THAT LOCAL AND REGIONAL MANPOWER IS  
31 GIVEN PREFERENTIAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRIES, FIRMS AND  
32 BUSINESSES ESTABLISHED IN THE REGION.

1 SEC. 11. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL TAKE  
2 MEASURES TO PROTECT THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND  
3 CHILDREN. IN NO CASE SHALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN BE EXPLOITED AND  
4 DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

5 SEC. 12. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
6 PROVIDE, MAINTAIN AND ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC HEALTH,  
7 EDUCATION AND OTHER SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

8 SEC. 13. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL TAKE  
9 THE LEAD IN EDUCATING THE RESIDENTS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION ON  
10 THE NECESSITY AND BENEFICIALITY OF THE PAYMENT OF TAXES.

11 SEC. 14. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL, BY  
12 LAW, PROHIBIT POLITICAL DYNASTIES.

13 ARTICLE IV

14 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT POWERS

15 SEC. 1. SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS,  
16 THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL EXERCISE THE FOLLOWING  
17 POWERS AND FUNCTIONS:

18 A) FORMULATE POLICIES, GUIDELINES, RULES AND REGULATIONS  
19 FOR THE PROPER GOVERNANCE OF THE PROVINCES, CITIES,  
20 MUNICIPALITIES AND BARANGAYS WITHIN THE REGION;

21 B) SET PRIORITIES, FORMULATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND  
22 DEVELOPMENT PLANS, FUND AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR  
23 THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN COORDINATION AND WITH THE  
24 PARTICIPATION WHERE FEASIBLE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS  
25 WHERE THE PLANS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED;

26 C) TO DISCHARGE SUCH POWERS AND FUNCTIONS CONSISTENT  
27 WITH THE DECLARED CONSTITUTIONAL POLICY ON REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
28 AUTONOMY AND THE DECENTRALIZATION OF THE POWERS OF THE NATIONAL  
29 GOVERNMENT. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL AUTHORIZE THE DIMINUTION OF  
30 THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS ALREADY ENJOYED BY THE LOCAL  
31 GOVERNMENT UNITS.

32 (D) TO EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO

10. PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION AND TO  
2 CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ORGANIC ACT.

3 SEC. 2. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT MAY, THROUGH  
4 THE GOVERNOR, AND ACTING PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION OF THE  
5 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF EMINENT  
6 DOMAIN AND INSTITUTE CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS FOR PUBLIC USE  
7 OR PURPOSE.

8 SEC. 3. SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS,  
9 THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT, AS A CORPORATE ENTITY,  
10 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS:

11 (A) TO HAVE CONTINUOUS SUCCESSION IN ITS CORPORATE NAME;

12 (B) TO SUE AND BE SUED;

13 (C) TO ACQUIRE AND CONVEY REAL AND/OR PERSONAL PROPERTY;

14 (D) TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, ENGAGE IN ECONOMIC  
15 ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE OPERATION OF  
16 PUBLIC UTILITIES, REGIONAL RAILROAD SYSTEM, RADIO AND  
17 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WITH COUNTRYWIDE AND WORLDWIDE  
18 LINKAGES.

19 (E) TO ENTER INTO CO-PRODUCTION, CO-VENTURE OR JOINT-  
20 PROJECT AGREEMENTS UNDER A PROFIT-SHARING SCHEME WITH BOTH  
21 DOMESTIC AND/OR FOREIGN ENTITIES.

22 (F) TO SECURE DOMESTIC AND/OR FOREIGN LOANS, GRANTS-IN-  
23 AID DONATIONS AND/OR OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE FROM DOMESTIC  
24 AND FOREIGN SOURCES FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

25 (G) TO FLOAT BONDS AND OTHER SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS AND/OR  
26 CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS, RAISE FUNDS THROUGH VOLUNTARY  
27 CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUND-RAISING AFFAIRS; AND

28 (H) TO EXERCISE SUCH OTHER CORPORATE POWERS AS MAY BE  
29 NECESSARY OR PROPER IN THE DISCHARGE OF ITS DUTIES.

30 ARTICLE V

31 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

32 SEC. 1. THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MINDANAO IS A

1 TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION ADMINISTERED BY THE  
2 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT CONSISTING OF THE REGIONAL  
3 GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

4 SEC. 2. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL EXERCISE  
5 GENERAL SUPERVISION OVER THE AUTONOMOUS REGION THROUGH THE  
6 REGIONAL GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT REGIONAL AFFAIRS ARE  
7 ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW.

8 SEC. 3. EXCEPT AS TO MATTERS AFFECTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
9 NATIONAL DEFENSE, POSTAL SERVICE, THE CENTRAL BANK, JUDICIARY,  
10 QUARANTINE, CUSTOMS AND TARIFF, CITIZENSHIP, NATURALIZATION AND  
11 DEPORTATION, GENERAL AUDITING, FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME, LAND  
12 AND AIR TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION THAT AFFECT AREAS  
13 OUTSIDE THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OR OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, ALL  
14 REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL LINE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT-  
15 OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION,  
16 SHALL BE PLACED UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE  
17 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

18 SEC. 4. THE SUPREME COURT AND THE REGULAR LOWER COURTS  
19 ESTABLISHED BY LAW SHALL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THEIR JUDICIAL  
20 POWERS AS PROVIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS.

21 SEC. 5. IN CASE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PROVISIONS OF A  
22 LAW ENACTED BY THE AUTONOMOUS REGION AFFECTING PERSONAL, FAMILY  
23 AND PROPERTY RELATIONS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ANY NATIONAL  
24 LAW REGARDING THE SAME, THE NATIONAL LAW SHALL PREVAIL.

25 SEC. 6. THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE  
26 AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE SHARED AND DIVIDED BETWEEN THE  
27 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS  
28 PURSUANT TO LAW.

29 SEC. 7. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES  
30 THE INDIGENOUS DEMOCRACY, TRADITIONAL AUTONOMY, AND CUSTOMARY  
31 LAWS OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITY.

ARTICLE VI

THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SEC. 1. THE LEGISLATIVE POWER OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL BE VESTED IN THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNLESS THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES OTHERWISE.

SEC. 2. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY CREATE, DIVIDE, MERGE, ABOLISH, OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER BOUNDARIES OR CHANGE THE NAMES OF PROVINCES, CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES OR BARANGAYS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE PEOPLE OF THESE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

SEC. 3. FOR PURPOSES OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS SHALL, WHEREVER FEASIBLE, WITHIN SIXTY DAYS UPON APPROVAL OF THIS ACT, CLASSIFY THE POPULATION OF EVERY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION INTO THREE GROUPS, NAMELY, MUSLIM, TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND CHRISTIAN BASED UPON THE LATEST NATIONAL CENSUS.

EVERY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SHALL, UNTIL REVISED BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, BE ENTITLED TO THREE REPRESENTATIVES. TWO OF THE REPRESENTATIVES SHALL REPRESENT THE MAJORITY GROUP AND ONE, THE MINORITY GROUP OR GROUPS.

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS SHALL PROMULGATE THE CORRESPONDING RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS PROVISION.

SEC. 4. NO PERSON SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNLESS HE IS A NATURAL BORN CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, AT LEAST TWENTY THREE (23) YEARS OF AGE ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION, ABLE TO READ AND WRITE, A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE DISTRICT WHICH HE SEEMS TO REPRESENT, AND MUST BE A RESIDENT OF THE REGION FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS AND OF THE DISTRICT FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DAY OF THE ELECTION.

SEC. 5. THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1 SHALL BE ELECTED FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS. UNLESS  
2 OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, THE REGULAR ELECTION FOR THE  
3 MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL BE HELD ON  
4 THE SECOND MONDAY OF MAY.

5 NO MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL SERVE  
6 FOR MORE THAN THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE TERMS. VOLUNTARY  
7 RENUNCIATION OF THE OFFICE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME SHALL NOT BE  
8 CONSIDERED AS AN INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY OF HIS SERVICE  
9 FOR THE FULL TERM FOR WHICH HE WAS ELECTED.

10 SEC. 6. ANY VACANCY IN THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
11 OCCURRING WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS OF THE TERM OF OFFICE SHALL BE  
12 FILLED BY A SPECIAL ELECTION THEREFOR; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT  
13 THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE SHALL SERVE ONLY FOR THE UNEXPIRED  
14 TERM.

15 SEC. 7. THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
16 SHALL, UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY REGIONAL LAW, RECEIVE A  
17 YEARLY COMPENSATION OF ONE HUNDRED FOURTY FOUR THOUSAND PESOS  
18 (P144,000), EXCLUDING PER DIEMS AND OTHER ALLOWANCES, AND  
19 TRAVELING ALLOWANCES TO AND FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS.  
20 NO INCREASE IN SAID COMPENSATION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL, AFTER  
21 THE EXPIRATION OF THE FULL TERM OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL  
22 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY APPROVING SUCH INCREASE.

23 SEC. 8. THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
24 SHALL, IN ALL OFFENSES BE PUNISHABLE BY NOT MORE THAN SIX (6)  
25 YEARS IMPRISONMENT, BE PRIVILEGED FROM ARREST WHILE THE  
26 ASSEMBLY IS IN SESSION. NO MEMBER SHALL BE QUESTIONED NOR BE  
27 HELD LIABLE IN ANY OTHER PLACE FOR ANY SPEECH OR DEBATE IN THE  
28 ASSEMBLY OR IN ANY COMMITTEE THEREOF.

29 SEC. 9. (A) NO MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
30 ASSEMBLY SHALL HOLD ANY OTHER OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT IN  
31 GOVERNMENT, OR ANY SUBDIVISION, AGENCY, OR INSTRUMENTAL  
32 THEREOF, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS



1 OR THEIR SUBSIDIARIES, DURING HIS TERM WITHOUT FORFEITING HIS  
2 SEAT. NEITHER SHALL HE BE APPOINTED TO ANY OFFICE WHICH MAY  
3 HAVE BEEN CREATED OR THE EMOLUMENTS THEREOF INCREASED DURING  
4 HIS TERM FOR WHICH HE WAS ELECTED.

5 (B) NO MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL  
6 DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BE FINANCIALLY INTERESTED IN ANY  
7 CONTRACT OR TRANSACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR ANY SUBDIVISION  
8 OR INSTRUMENTALITY THEREOF, OR IN ANY FRANCHISE OR SPECIAL  
9 PRIVILEGE GRANTED BY EITHER THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS OR THE  
10 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE. UPON  
11 ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, HE IS HEREBY REQUIRED TO FILE WITH THE  
12 ASSEMBLY, A SWORN VERIFIED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
13 AND A FULL DISCLOSURE OF HIS FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS INTEREST,  
14 AS WELL AS OF THE DIRECT MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY.

15 A MEMBER FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING THIS PROVISION MAY BE  
16 EXPELLED BY A TWO-THIRDS (2/3) VOTE OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE  
17 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO HIS  
18 LIABILITIES UNDER PERTINENT LEGISLATION.

19 SEC. 10. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CONVENE  
20 EVERY YEAR ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF JULY FOR ITS REGULAR SESSION,  
21 UNLESS A DIFFERENT DATE IS FIXED BY LAW, AND SHALL CONTINUE TO  
22 BE IN SESSION FOR SUCH NUMBER OF DAYS AS IT MAY DETERMINE UNTIL  
23 THIRTY DAYS BEFORE THE OPENING OF ITS NEXT REGULAR SESSION;  
24 EXCLUSIVE OF FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, LEGAL AND SPECIAL  
25 HOLIDAYS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW. IT MAY BE CALLED TO A  
26 SPECIAL SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS  
27 GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER GENERAL LEGISLATION OR SUCH SUBJECT AS  
28 HE MAY DESIGNATE. NO SPECIAL SESSION SHALL CONTINUE LONGER  
29 THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS.

30 SEC. 11. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL ELECT A  
31 SPEAKER AND SUCH OTHER OFFICERS AS THE RULES OF THE REGIONAL  
32 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY REQUIRE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE

1 SPEAKER SHALL BE ELECTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL THE MEMBERS  
2 OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

3 SEC. 12. A MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL  
4 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM TO DO BUSINESS  
5 BUT A SMALLER NUMBER MAY ADJOURN FROM DAY TO DAY AND MAY COMPEL  
6 THE ATTENDANCE OF ABSENT MEMBERS IN SUCH MANNER AND UNDER SUCH  
7 PENALTIES, AS THE RULES OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
8 MAY PROVIDE.

9 SEC. 13. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY DETERMINE  
10 THE RULES OF ITS PROCEEDINGS, PUNISH ITS MEMBERS FOR DISORDERLY  
11 BEHAVIOR, AND, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF TWO-THIRDS OF ALL ITS  
12 MEMBERS SUSPEND OR EXPEL A MEMBER. NO MEMBER SHALL, HOWEVER,  
13 BE SUSPENDED FOR MORE THAN A PERIOD OF SIXTY DAYS.

14 SEC. 14. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL KEEP A  
15 JOURNAL OF ITS PROCEEDINGS, AND FROM TIME TO TIME PUBLISH THE  
16 SAME, EXCEPTING SUCH PART AS MAY, IN ITS JUDGMENT, AFFECT  
17 NATIONAL/OR REGIONAL SECURITY, OR SUCH OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY  
18 REQUIRE SECRECY OR CONFIDENTIALITY; AND THE YEAS AND NAYS ON  
19 ANY QUESTION SHALL, AT THE REQUEST OF ONE-FIFTH OF THE MEMBERS  
20 PRESENT, BE ENTERED IN THE JOURNAL.

21 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL LIKEWISE KEEP A  
22 RECORD OF ITS CAUCUSES, MEETINGS AND SUCH OTHER SIMILAR  
23 PROCEEDINGS.

24 SEC. 15: (A) THERE SHALL BE CREATED A REGIONAL  
25 COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS THE MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH SHALL  
26 CONSIST OF THE ASSEMBLYMAN WHO RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF  
27 VOTES FROM EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, WITH THE SPEAKER AS EX-  
28 OFFICIO CHAIRMAN THEREOF. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION SHALL  
29 NOT VOTE, EXCEPT IN CASE OF A TIE. THE COMMISSION SHALL ACT ON  
30 ALL APPOINTMENTS SUBMITTED TO IT WITHIN THIRTY SESSION DAYS OF  
31 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FROM THEIR SUBMISSION.

32 (B) ALL ORIGINAL AND PROMOTIONAL APPOINTMENTS TO

1 POSITIONS CREATED BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH THE  
2 RANK OF CABINET MEMBERS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS, REGIONAL  
3 DIRECTORS, HEADS OF AGENCIES, COMMISSIONERS DOWN TO THE LEVEL  
4 OF DIVISION CHIEFS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION  
5 BY THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS.

6 (C) THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS SHALL BE  
7 CONSTITUTED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE ELECTION OF THE  
8 SPEAKER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE REGIONAL  
9 COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS SHALL MEET ONLY WHILE THE REGIONAL  
10 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IS IN SESSION, AT THE CALL OF ITS CHAIRMAN  
11 OR A MAJORITY OF ALL ITS MEMBERS, TO DISCHARGE SUCH POWERS AND  
12 FUNCTIONS HEREIN CONFERRED UPON IT.

13 SEC. 16. THE RECORDS AND BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS OF THE  
14 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL BE PRESERVED AND BE OPENED  
15 TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY, AND THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT IS HEREBY  
16 REQUIRED TO PUBLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT OF ITEMIZED LIST OF  
17 EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY THE MEMBERS THEREOF.

18 SEC. 17. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OR ANY OF ITS  
19 COMMITTEE MAY CONDUCT INQUIRIES AND/OR PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS IN  
20 AID OF LEGISLATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS DULY PUBLISHED RULES.  
21 THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS APPEARING IN OR AFFECTED BY SUCH  
22 INQUIRIES SHALL BE RESPECTED.

23 SEC. 18. THE EXECUTIVE AND/OR REGIONAL OFFICIALS OF THE  
24 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT MAY, UPON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE,  
25 WITH THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNOR, OR UPON THE REQUEST OF THE  
26 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, OR ANY OF ITS COMMITTEE, AS THE  
27 RULES OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL PROVIDE,  
28 APPEAR BEFORE AND BE HEARD BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
29 ON ANY MATTER PERTAINING TO THEIR OFFICES. WRITTEN QUESTIONS  
30 SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SPEAKER AT LEAST THREE DAYS BEFORE  
31 THEIR SCHEDULED APPEARANCE. INTERPELLATION SHALL NOT BE  
32 LIMITED TO WRITTEN QUESTION, BUT MAY COVER MATTERS RELATED

1    THERETO.    WHEN THE SECURITY OF THE STATE, REGION OR PUBLIC  
2    INTEREST SO REQUIRES AND THE SPEAKER SO STATES IN WRITING, THE  
3    APPEARANCE SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

4            SEC. 19. THERE SHALL BE A QUESTION HOUR AT LEAST ONCE A  
5    MONTH OR AS OFTEN AS THE RULES OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
6    ASSEMBLY MAY PROVIDE, WHICH SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA,  
7    DURING WHICH THE GOVERNOR OR ANY MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL CABINET  
8    MAY BE REQUIRED TO APPEAR AND ANSWER QUESTIONS AND  
9    INTERPELLATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
10   ASSEMBLY.

11           SEC. 20. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY NOT  
12   INCREASE THE APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR THE  
13   OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT IN THE PROPOSED  
14   BUDGET. THE FORM, CONTENT AND MANNER OF PREPARATION OF THE  
15   BUDGET SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY REGIONAL LAW.

16           SEC. 21. IF, BY THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR, THE REGIONAL  
17   LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE FAILED TO PASS THE GENERAL  
18   APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR THE ENSUING FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
19   APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE  
20   DEEMED AUTOMATICALLY RE-ENACTED AND SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE AND  
21   EFFECT UNTIL THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL IS PASSED BY THE  
22   REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

23           SEC. 22. (A) EVERY BILL PASSED BY THE REGIONAL  
24   LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL EMBRACE ONLY ONE SUBJECT WHICH SHALL  
25   BE EXPRESSED IN THE TITLE THEREOF.

26           (B) NO BILL PASSED BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
27   SHALL BECOME A LAW, UNLESS IT HAS PASSED THREE READINGS ON  
28   SEPARATE DAYS, AND PRINTED COPIES THEREOF IN ITS FINAL FORM  
29   HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ITS MEMBERS THREE DAYS BEFORE ITS  
30   PASSAGE, EXCEPT WHEN THE GOVERNOR CERTIFIES TO THE NECESSITY OF  
31   ITS IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT TO MEET A PUBLIC CALAMITY OR EMERGENCY.  
32   UPON THE LAST READING OF A BILL, NO AMENDMENT THERETO SHALL BE

1 ALLOWED, AND THE VOTE THEREON SHALL BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY  
2 THEREAFTER AND THE YEAS AND NAYS ENTERED IN THE JOURNAL.

3 SEC. 23. (A) EVERY BILL PASSED BY THE REGIONAL  
4 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL, BEFORE IT BECOMES A LAW, BE  
5 PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR. IF HE APPROVES THE SAME, HE SHALL  
6 SIGN IT; OTHERWISE, HE SHALL VETO IT AND RETURN THE SAME WITH  
7 HIS OBJECTIONS TO THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WHICH SHALL  
8 ENTER THE OBJECTIONS AT LARGE IN ITS JOURNAL AND PROCEED TO  
9 RECONSIDER IT. IF AFTER SUCH RECONSIDERATION, TWO-THIRDS OF  
10 ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL AGREE TO  
11 PASS THE BILL, IT SHALL BECOME A LAW. IN ALL SUCH CASES THE  
12 VOTES OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL BE DETERMINED  
13 BY YEAS AND NAYS, AND THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS VOTING FOR OR  
14 AGAINST SHALL BE ENTERED IN ITS JOURNAL. THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
15 COMMUNICATE HIS VETO OF ANY BILL TO THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
16 ASSEMBLY WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF RECEIPT THEREOF;  
17 OTHERWISE IT SHALL BECOME A LAW AS IF HE HAS SIGNED IT.

18 (B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO VETO ANY  
19 PARTICULAR ITEM OR ITEMS IN AN APPROPRIATION, REVENUE, OR  
20 TARIFF BILL, BUT THE VETO SHALL NOT AFFECT THE ITEM OR ITEMS TO  
21 WHICH HE DOES NOT OBJECT.

22 SEC. 24. (A) THE RULE ON TAXATION SHALL BE UNIFORM AND  
23 EQUITABLE. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL EVOLVE A  
24 PROGRESSIVE SYSTEM OF TAXATION.

25 (B) CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, CHURCHES AND PARSONAGES OR  
26 CONVENTS APPURTENANT THERETO, MOSQUES, NON-PROFIT CEMETERIES,  
27 AND ALL LANDS, BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, ACTUALLY,  
28 DIRECTLY, AND EXCLUSIVELY USED FOR RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE, OR  
29 EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION.

30 (C) NO LAW GRANTING ANY TAX EXEMPTION SHALL BE PASSED  
31 WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF A MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE  
32 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

1 SEC. 25. (A) NO MONEY SHALL BE PAID OUT OF THE REGIONAL  
2 TREASURY EXCEPT IN PURSUANCE OF AN APPROPRIATION MADE BY LAW.

3 (B) NO PUBLIC MONEY OR PROPERTY SHALL BE APPROPRIATED  
4 APPLIED, PAID, OR EMPLOYED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR THE  
5 USE, BENEFIT, OR SUPPORT OF ANY SECT, CHURCH, DENOMINATION,  
6 SECTARIAN INSTITUTION, OR SYSTEM OF RELIGION OR OF ANY PRIEST,  
7 IMAM, PREACHER, MINISTER, OR OTHER RELIGIOUS TEACHER, OR  
8 DIGNITARY AS SUCH EXCEPT WHEN SUCH PRIEST, IMAM, PREACHER,  
9 MINISTER, OR DIGNITARY IS ASSIGNED TO THE ARMED FORCES, OR TO  
10 ANY PENAL INSTITUTION, OR GOVERNMENT ORPHANAGE OR LEPROSARIUM.

11 (C) ALL MONEY COLLECTED ON ANY TAX LEVIED FOR A SPECIAL  
12 PURPOSE SHALL BE TREATED AS A SPECIAL FUND AND PAID OUT FOR  
13 SUCH PURPOSE ONLY. IF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH A SPECIAL FUND WAS  
14 CREATED HAS BEEN FULFILLED OR ABANDONED, THE BALANCE, IF ANY,  
15 SHALL ACCRUE TO THE GENERAL FUNDS OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS  
16 GOVERNMENT.

17 ARTICLE VII

18 THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR AND THE CABINET

19 SEC. 1. THE EXECUTIVE POWER SHALL BE VESTED IN THE  
20 GOVERNOR OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

21 SEC. 2. THE GOVERNOR SHALL BE ASSISTED BY A CABINET  
22 WHOSE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY HIM WITH THE CONFIRMATION  
23 OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE CABINET SHALL HAVE  
24 SIX (6) MEMBERS; TWO OF WHOM MUST BE MUSLIMS; TWO CHRISTIANS  
25 AND TWO FROM THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.

26 SEC. 3. NO PERSON MAY BE ELECTED GOVERNOR OF THE  
27 AUTONOMOUS REGION UNLESS HE IS A NATURAL BORN CITIZEN OF THE  
28 PHILIPPINES, A REGISTERED VOTER OF ANY PROVINCE OR CITY OF THE  
29 REGION, ABLE TO READ AND WRITE, AT LEAST THIRTY FIVE YEARS OF  
30 AGE ON THE DAY OF ELECTION, A RESIDENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS  
31 FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ELECTION.

32 SEC. 4. THERE SHALL BE A VICE-GOVERNOR OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

1 AUTONOMOUS REGION WHO SHALL HAVE THE SAME QUALIFICATIONS AND  
2 TERM OF OFFICE AND BE ELECTED WITH AND IN THE SAME MANNER AS  
3 THE GOVERNOR. HE MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE IN THE SAME MANNER  
4 AS THE GOVERNOR.

5 THE VICE-GOVERNOR MAY BE APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF A  
6 REGIONAL CABINET. SUCH APPOINTMENT REQUIRES NO CONFIRMATION.

7 SEC. 5. (A) THE GOVERNOR AND THE VICE-GOVERNOR SHALL  
8 BE ELECTED BY DIRECT VOTE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION.

9 (B) NO GOVERNOR OR VICE-GOVERNOR SHALL SERVE FOR MORE  
10 THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS. VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION OF THE  
11 OFFICE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN  
12 INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY OF THE SERVICE FOR THE FULL TERM  
13 FOR WHICH THEY WERE ELECTED.

14 SEC. 6. THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND VICE-  
15 GOVERNOR SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WHICH SHALL BEGIN  
16 AT NOON ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF JUNE NEXT FOLLOWING THE DAY OF  
17 THE ELECTION AND SHALL END AT NOON OF THE SAME DATE THREE YEARS  
18 THERAFTER.

19 THE REGULAR ELECTION FOR THE GOVERNOR AND VICE-GOVERNOR  
20 SHALL BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS,  
21 UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.

22 SEC. 7. BEFORE THEY ENTER ON THE EXECUTION OF THEIR  
23 OFFICE THE GOVERNOR, THE VICE-GOVERNOR OR THE ACTING GOVERNOR  
24 SHALL TAKE THE FOLLOWING OATH OR AFFIRMATION:

25 "I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I  
26 FAITHFULLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY FULFILL MY DUTIES AS  
27 (GOVERNOR, VICE-GOVERNOR, OR ACTING GOVERNOR) OF  
28 THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT, PRESERVE AND  
29 DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC, THIS  
30 ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, THE NATIONAL  
31 AND REGIONAL LAWS, DO JUSTICE TO EVERY MAN, AND  
32 CONSECRATE MYSELF TO THE SERVICE OF THE AUTONOMOUS

1 REGION AND THE NATION. SO HELP ME GOD." (IN CASE  
2 OF AFFIRMATION, LAST SENTENCE WILL BE OMITTED.)

3 SEC. 8. THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION OF THE GOVERNOR AND  
4 VICE-GOVERNOR SHALL, UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, BE FIXED  
5 AT TWO HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P204,000) AND ONE HUNDRED  
6 EIGHTY THOUSAND PESOS (P180,000) RESPECTIVELY.

7 SEC. 9. THE GOVERNOR SHALL HAVE AN OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AT  
8 THE SEAT OF REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

9 SEC. 10. THE GOVERNOR AND VICE-GOVERNOR, IMMEDIATELY  
10 AFTER THEIR ELECTION, SHALL TAKE THEIR OATH OF OFFICE AND  
11 THEREBY ASSUME THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THEIR  
12 RESPECTIVE OFFICES.

13 SEC. 11. IN CASE OF DEATH, PERMANENT DISABILITY, REMOVAL  
14 FROM OFFICE, AND RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNOR, THE VICE-GOVERNOR  
15 SHALL BECOME THE GOVERNOR TO SERVE THE UNEXPIRED TERM. IN CASE  
16 OF DEATH, PERMANENT DISABILITY, REMOVAL FROM THE OFFICE, OR THE  
17 RESIGNATION OF BOTH THE GOVERNOR AND THE VICE-GOVERNOR, THE  
18 SPEAKER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL ACT AS  
19 GOVERNOR UNTIL THE GOVERNOR AND VICE-GOVERNOR ARE ELECTED AND  
20 QUALIFIED IN A SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

21 NO SPECIAL ELECTION SHALL BE CALLED TO FILL UP A VACANCY  
22 OCCURRING WITHIN ONE YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE NEXT REGULAR  
23 ELECTION.

24 SEC. 12. WHENEVER THE GOVERNOR IS TEMPORARILY  
25 INCAPACITATED, AND HE VOLUNTARILY TRANSMITS TO THE SPEAKER OF  
26 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HIS WRITTEN DECLARATION THAT  
27 HE IS UNABLE TO DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE,  
28 THOSE POWERS AND DUTIES SHALL BE DISCHARGED BY THE VICE-  
29 GOVERNOR AS ACTING GOVERNOR, SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY  
30 NATIONAL LAWS.

31 OFFICIAL VISITS TO FOREIGN LANDS NOT EXCEEDING TEN DAYS  
32 SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ABSENCE.



1           WHENEVER, THE GOVERNOR REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS  
2 INABILITY TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS, THE CABINET  
3 SHALL TRANSMIT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
4 ASSEMBLY A WRITTEN DECLARATION THAT THE GOVERNOR IS UNABLE TO  
5 DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE.

6           THEREAFTER, WHEN THE GOVERNOR TRANSMITS TO THE REGIONAL  
7 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HIS WRITTEN DECLARATION THAT NO INABILITY  
8 EXISTS, HE SHALL RE-ASSUME THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE.  
9 MEANWHILE, SHOULD THE MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE  
10 CABINET TRANSMIT WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS TO THE SPEAKER OF THE  
11 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY A WRITTEN DECLARATION THAT THE  
12 GOVERNOR IS UNABLE TO DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF HIS  
13 OFFICE, THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL DECIDE THE  
14 ISSUE. FOR THAT PURPOSE, THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
15 SHALL CONVENE, IF IT IS NOT IN SESSION, WITHIN FORTY EIGHT (48)  
16 HOURS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS RULES AND WITHOUT NEED OF CALL.

17           IF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS  
18 AFTER RECEIPT OF THE LAST WRITTEN DECLARATION, OR, IF NOT IN  
19 SESSION, WITHIN TWELVE (12) DAYS AFTER IT IS REQUIRED TO  
20 ASSEMBLE, DETERMINES BY A TWO-THIRDS (2/3) VOTE THAT THE  
21 GOVERNOR IS UNABLE TO DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF HIS  
22 OFFICE, THE VICE-GOVERNOR SHALL SERVE AS ACTING GOVERNOR;  
23 OTHERWISE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL CONTINUE EXERCISING THE POWERS  
24 AND DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
25 SHALL IMMEDIATELY INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF ITS DECISION.

26           SEC. 13. IN CASE OF SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE GOVERNOR, THE  
27 PUBLIC SHALL BE INFORMED OF THE STATE OF HIS HEALTH. THE  
28 MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THE SPEAKER OF THE REGIONAL  
29 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, SHALL NOT BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE  
30 GOVERNOR DURING SUCH ILLNESS.

31           SEC. 14. THE GOVERNOR, THE VICE-GOVERNOR, MEMBERS OF THE  
32 CABINET AND THEIR DEPUTIES OR ASSISTANTS SHALL NOT HOLD ANY

1 OTHER OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT DURING THEIR TENURE. THEY SHALL  
2 NOT, DURING SAID TENURE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY PRACTICE ANY  
3 OTHER PROFESSION, PARTICIPATE IN ANY BUSINESS, OR BE  
4 FINANCIALLY INTERESTED IN ANY CONTRACT WITH, OR IN ANY  
5 FRANCHISE, OR SPECIAL PRIVILEGE GRANTED BY THE NATIONAL  
6 GOVERNMENT OR THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT OR ANY  
7 SUBDIVISION, AGENCY, OR INSTRUMENTALITY THEREOF, INCLUDING  
8 GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS OR THEIR  
9 SUBSIDIARIES. THEY SHALL STRICTLY AVOID CONFLICT OF INTERESTS  
10 IN THE CONDUCT OF THEIR OFFICE.

11 THE SPOUSE/S, RELATIVES BY CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY  
12 WITHIN THE FOURTH CIVIL DEGREE OF THE GOVERNOR SHALL NOT DURING  
13 HIS TENURE, BE APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL CABINET,  
14 REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, CHAIRMEN OR HEADS OF THE BUREAUS OR  
15 OFFICES INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS  
16 AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES.

17 SEC. 15. APPOINTMENTS EXTENDED BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR  
18 SHALL REMAIN EFFECTIVE, UNLESS REVOKED BY THE ELECTED GOVERNOR  
19 WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM HIS ASSUMPTION OR RE-ASSUMPTION OF  
20 OFFICE.

21 SEC. 16. THE GOVERNOR OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS  
22 GOVERNMENT IS HEREBY PROHIBITED FROM ISSUING APPOINTMENTS,  
23 REMOVING PERSONNEL AND/OR EXECUTING CONTRACTS, WITHIN SIXTY  
24 (60) DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO A REGIONAL ELECTION.

25 SEC. 17. THE GOVERNOR SHALL NOMINATE AND, WITH THE  
26 CONSENT OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS, APPOINT THE  
27 CABINET MEMBERS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS, THE HEADS OF THE  
28 COMMISSIONS, BUREAUS AND ALL OTHER OFFICIALS DOWN TO THE LEVEL  
29 OF DIVISION CHIEFS OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT WHOSE  
30 APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR BY LAW, AND THOSE  
31 WHOM HE MAY BE AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO APPOINT. THE REGIONAL  
32 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY, BY LAW, VEST THE APPOINTMENT OF

1 OFFICERS OR OFFICIALS IN THE COURT, OR IN THE HEADS OF  
2 DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, OR BOARDS.

3 THE GOVERNOR SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS  
4 DURING THE RECESS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, WHETHER  
5 VOLUNTARY OR COMPULSORY, BUT SUCH APPOINTMENT SHALL BE  
6 EFFECTIVE ONLY UNTIL DISAPPROVAL BY THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON  
7 APPOINTMENTS OR UNTIL THE NEXT ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGIONAL  
8 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

9 SEC. 18. SUBJECT TO THE EXCEPTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS  
10 ACT, THE GOVERNOR SHALL HAVE CONTROL OF ALL THE REGIONAL  
11 COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, BUREAUS AND OFFICES. HE SHALL ENSURE THAT  
12 THE LAWS BE FAITHFULLY EXECUTED.

13 SEC. 19. THE GOVERNOR SHALL SUBMIT TO THE ASSEMBLY  
14 WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE OPENING OF EVERY REGULAR  
15 SESSION, AS THE BASIS OF THE REGIONAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS  
16 BILL, A BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING,  
17 INCLUDING RECEIPTS FROM EXISTING AND PROPOSED REVENUE MEASURES  
18 FOR THE OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LINE AGENCIES AND  
19 GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS ABSORBED BY THE  
20 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT, PROVIDED THAT IF REGIONAL  
21 REVENUES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO FUND SUCH OPERATIONS, THE  
22 DIFFERENCE SHALL BE FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.  
23 PROVIDED THAT ANY OUTSTANDING AMOUNT DUE WHICH ARE OWED TO THE  
24 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE OFFSET AGAINST THIS  
25 ANNUAL SUBSIDY.

26 SEC. 20. THE GOVERNOR SHALL ADDRESS THE REGIONAL  
27 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE OPENING OF ITS REGULAR SESSION. HE  
28 MAY ALSO APPEAR BEFORE IT AT ANY OTHER TIME. THE REGIONAL  
29 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY INVITE THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER  
30 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO ADDRESS IT.

1 ARTICLE VIII

2 SPECIAL COURTS

3 SEC. 1. THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED A MUSLIM APPELLATE  
4 COURT AND OTHER LOWER MUSLIM AND TRIBAL COURTS HAVING SPECIAL  
5 JURISDICTION ON PERSONS, FAMILY AND PROPERTY RELATIONS. A  
6 TRIBAL APPELLATE COURT SHALL ALSO BE ESTABLISHED AS NECESSARY.

7 SEC. 2. THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT SHALL BE COMPOSED OF  
8 ONE PRESIDING JUSTICE AND TWO (2) ASSOCIATE JUSTICES. ANY  
9 VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED WITHIN NINETY DAYS FROM THE OCCURRENCE  
10 THEREOF.

11 SEC. 3. ALL JUSTICES OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT  
12 SHALL POSSESS THE SAME QUALIFICATIONS AS THOSE JUSTICES OF THE  
13 COURT OF APPEALS. THE MAJORITY SHALL BE GRADUATES OF ISLAMIC  
14 LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE.

15 SEC. 4. THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT SHALL EXERCISE THE  
16 FOLLOWING POWERS:

17 (A) EXERCISE EXCLUSIVE APPELLATE JURISDICTION OVER ALL  
18 CASES TRIED IN THE MUSLIM DISTRICT COURTS.

19 (B) EXERCISE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER PETITIONS FOR  
20 CERTIORARI, PROHIBITIONS, MANDAMUS, QUO WARRANTO, HABEAS  
21 CORPUS, AND OTHER AUXILIARY WRITS AND PROCESSES IN AID OF ITS  
22 APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

23 SEC. 5. THE DECISIONS OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURTS  
24 SHALL BE FINAL AND EXECUTORY: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING  
25 HEREIN CONTAINED SHALL AFFECT THE ORIGINAL AND APPELLATE  
26 JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME COURT AS PROVIDED IN THE  
27 CONSTITUTION.

28 SEC. 6. (A) A MUSLIM JUDICIAL AND BAR COMMITTEE IS  
29 HEREBY CREATED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE  
30 COURT TO BE COMPOSED OF THE PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE MUSLIM  
31 APPELLATE COURT AS CHAIRMAN EX-OFFICIO, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM  
32 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTED BY IT; AND A

1 REPRESENTATION FROM THE ULAMA AS MEMBER WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED  
2 BY THE GOVERNOR.

3 (B) THE ULAMA REPRESENTATIVE SHALL HAVE A TERM OF FOUR  
4 (4) YEARS. HE SHALL RECEIVE AN EMOLUMENT TO BE DETERMINED BY  
5 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

6 (C) THE MUSLIM JUDICIAL AND BAR COMMITTEE SHALL RECOMMEND  
7 TO THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL NOMINEES TO THE MUSLIM COURTS  
8 IN THE REGION.

9 (D) THE CLERK OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT SHALL BE THE  
10 EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE AND SHALL KEEP A RECORD  
11 OF ITS PROCEEDINGS.

12 SEC. 7. MEMBERS OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT AND JUDGES  
13 OF LOWER MUSLIM COURTS IN THE REGION SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE  
14 PRESIDENT FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY THE MUSLIM  
15 JUDICIAL AND BAR COMMITTEE TO THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCILS.  
16 SUCH APPOINTMENT SHALL NEED NO CONFIRMATION BY THE COMMISSION  
17 ON APPOINTMENTS AND SHALL BE MADE WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM  
18 THE SUBMISSION OF THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE JUDICIAL AND BAR  
19 COUNCILS.

20 SEC. 8. THE PRESIDING AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE  
21 MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT, SHALL SERVE DURING GOOD BEHAVIOR, UNTIL  
22 THEY REACH THE AGE OF SEVENTY YEARS, UNLESS SOONER REMOVED FOR  
23 CAUSE AND IN THE SAME MANNER AS JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF  
24 APPEALS OR BECOME INCAPACITATED TO DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF HIS  
25 OFFICE. THE SUPREME COURT EN BANC SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO  
26 DISCIPLINE JUDGES OF SPECIAL COURTS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS  
27 ARTICLE OR ORDER THEIR DISMISSAL BY A VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF  
28 MEMBERS WHO ACTUALLY TOOK PART IN THE DELIBERATIONS ON THE  
29 ISSUES IN THE CASE AND VOTED THEREON.

30 SEC. 9. THE PRESIDING JUSTICE AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF  
31 THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT SHALL RECEIVE THE SAME COMPENSATION  
32 AND ENJOY THE SAME PRIVILEGES AS THE PRESIDING JUSTICE AND

1 ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SANDIGAN BAYAN RESPECTIVELY.

2 SEC. 10. (A) THE SUPREME COURT SHALL UPON THE  
3 RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE  
4 COURT, APPOINT THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND THE CLERK OF THE  
5 MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT.

6 (B) ALL OTHER PERSONNEL OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT  
7 SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE MUSLIM  
8 APPELLATE COURT.

9 (C) THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF EXISTING LAW REGARDING  
10 THE QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT, COMPENSATION, FUNCTIONS,  
11 DUTIES AND OTHER MATTERS RELATIVE TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE COURT  
12 OF APPEALS SHALL APPLY TO THOSE OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT.

13 SEC. 11. THE MEMBERS OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT AND  
14 OTHER MUSLIM COURTS ESTABLISHED BY LAW SHALL NOT BE DESIGNATED  
15 TO ANY AGENCY PERFORMING QUASI-JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE  
16 FUNCTIONS.

17 SEC. 12. THE OFFICIAL SEAT OF THE MUSLIM APPELLATE  
18 COURT SHALL, UNLESS THE SUPREME COURT DECIDES OTHERWISE, BE IN  
19 THE PLACE WHERE THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT HOLDS  
20 OFFICE.

21 SEC. 13. PROCEEDINGS IN THE MUSLIM APPELLATE COURT AND  
22 IN THE MUSLIM LOWER COURTS AS ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE AUTONOMOUS  
23 REGION SHALL BE GOVERNED BY SUCH RULES AS THE SUPREME COURT MAY  
24 PROMULGATE.

25 SEC. 14. THE MUSLIM DISTRICT COURTS AND MUSLIM CIRCUIT  
26 COURTS CREATED OR ORGANIZED UNDER EXISTING LAWS SHALL CONTINUE  
27 TO EXERCISE THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTION AND THEIR POWERS OVER  
28 CASES DEFINED BY LAWS PASSED BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
29 ASSEMBLY. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL, IN  
30 CONSULTATION WITH THE SUPREME COURT, DETERMINE THE NUMBER, THE  
31 JURISDICTION AND THE COMPENSATION OF THE SAID COURTS.

32 SEC. 15. (A) A MUSLIM CONCILIATION COUNCIL (MAJLIS AL-

1 ISLAH AL SHAR-E) SHALL BE CREATED BY REGIONAL LAW IN CITIES,  
2 MUNICIPALITIES OR BARANGAYS PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM IN THE  
3 AUTONOMOUS REGION.

4 (B) A TRIBAL CONCILIATION COUNCIL SHALL BE CREATED BY THE  
5 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN EVERY CITY, MUNICIPALITY OR  
6 BARANGAY PREDOMINANTLY INHABITED BY A TRIBAL INDIGENOUS  
7 CULTURAL COMMUNITIES.

8 SEC. 16. TRIBAL APPELLATE COURT AND LOWER TRIBAL COURTS  
9 FOR THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE AUTONOMOUS  
10 REGION SHALL DETERMINE, SETTLE, DECIDE CONTROVERSIES, AND  
11 ENFORCE DECISIONS INVOLVING PERSONAL, FAMILY AND PROPERTY  
12 RIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRIBAL CODE OF THESE COMMUNITIES.

13 SEC. 17. (A) THE PROVISIONS OF THE MUSLIM CODE AND THE  
14 TRIBAL CODE SHALL BE APPLICABLE ONLY TO MUSLIMS AND TRIBAL  
15 INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES RESPECTIVELY AND NOTHING HEREIN  
16 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO OPERATE TO THE PREJUDICE OF NON-MUSLIMS  
17 AND NON-TRIBAL INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES.

18 (B) IN CASE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TRIBAL CODE AND THE  
19 MUSLIM CODE, NATIONAL LAW SHALL PREVAIL.

20 (C) IN CASE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN TRIBAL CODE AND/OR  
21 MUSLIM CODE ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE NATIONAL LAW ON THE OTHER,  
22 THE LATTER SHALL PREVAIL.

23 SEC. 18. SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION,  
24 THE MUSLIM JUDICIAL SYSTEM SHALL INTERPRET THE MUSLIM LAW BASED  
25 ON THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

26 (A) THE QUR'AN (THE HOLY BOOK OF ISLAM);

27 (B) AL HADITH (THE SAYINGS AND PRACTICES OF PROPHET  
28 MOHAMMAD);

29 (C) AL QUIYAS (ANALOGY);

30 (D) AL IJMA (CONSENSUS);

31 (E) AL AADAT (CUSTOMS);

32 (F) AL TALFEG (CASES);

- 1 (G) AL TAQLEED (TRADITIONS); AND  
2 (H) AL IJTIHAD (OPINIONS OF DISTINGUISHED ULAMA).  
3 (I) RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

4 SEC. 19. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CREATE  
5 A REGIONAL PROSECUTION OFFICE, DETERMINE ITS COMPOSITION, AND  
6 DEFINE ITS DUTIES AND POWERS.

7 ARTICLE IX.

8 TAXATION AND SOURCES OF REVENUES

9 SEC. 1. ALL INDUSTRIES, CORPORATION, AND BUSINESS  
10 ESTABLISHMENTS DOING BUSINESS IN THE AREA OF AUTONOMY SHALL PAY  
11 ALL THEIR CORRESPONDING TAXES, FEES AND DUTIES INCLUDING INCOME  
12 TAXES ON THE NET INCOME GENERATED IN THE REGION TO THE REGIONAL  
13 AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT OR TO THE PROVINCES, CITIES,  
14 MUNICIPALITIES, OR BARANGAYS THEREIN.

15 SEC. 2. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY ENACT AN OMNIBUS  
16 REVENUE CODE FOR TAXATION AND OTHER REVENUE RAISING PURPOSES  
17 AND TO DETERMINE THE MODE OF CLASSIFICATION AND SHARING OF  
18 REVENUE RESOURCES WHICH THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT AND  
19 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE ENTITLED TO COLLECT, RETAIN  
20 AND DISBURSE.

21 SEC. 3. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL SHARE  
22 EIGHTY (80%) PERCENT OF THE TOTAL REVENUE AND/OR COLLECTIONS  
23 IN THE FORM OF TAXES, CUSTOMS DUTIES, FEES, CHARGES,  
24 SURCHARGES, PENALTIES FINES AND ANY OTHER REVENUE OR  
25 COLLECTIONS DUE TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. IT SHALL LIKEWISE  
26 HAVE THE POWER TO RETAIN THE SHARE OF THE SAID COLLECTIONS.  
27 THE BALANCE OF TWENTY PERCENT (20%) SHALL REPRESENT THE  
28 REGIONS' CONTRIBUTION FOR THE SERVICES THAT SHALL CONTINUE TO  
29 BE PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND SHALL REMIT THIS  
30 FUND TO IT ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

31 SEC. 4. THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE  
32 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT TEN BILLION PESOS



1 (P10,000,000,000.00) AS YEARLY ASSISTANCE, FOR TEN (10) YEARS  
2 TO ACCELERATE AND IMPROVE PRIMARILY INFRASTRUCTURE, AND  
3 SECONDARILY LIVELIHOOD OR OTHER PROJECTS DULY IDENTIFIED,  
4 ENDORSED AND APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL PLANNING AND  
5 DEVELOPMENT BOARD. PRIORITY PROJECTS SUCH AS THE  
6 ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, BROADCAST  
7 AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA FACILITIES AND NETWORKS, PORTS,  
8 AIRPORTS, RAILWAYS AND HIGHWAYS MAY BE CONSIDERED.

9 SEC. 5. NO FUNDS SHALL BE DISBURSED UNLESS DULY APPROVED  
10 BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

11 ARTICLE X

12 REGIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY

13 SEC. 1. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL HAVE  
14 SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER THE EXPLORATION, UTILIZATION,  
15 AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE REGION IN  
16 ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS.

17 THE GOVERNOR SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO GRANT LEASES,  
18 FRANCHISES, AND CONCESSIONS AND ISSUE PERMITS AND LICENSES  
19 RELATIVE THERETO. EXISTING LEASES, PERMITS, LICENSES,  
20 FRANCHISES AND CONCESSIONS SHALL HAVE FORCE AND EFFECT FOR  
21 TWENTY (20) YEARS OR UNTIL LEGALLY TERMINATED WHICHEVER IS  
22 EARLIER AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

23 SEC. 2. THE EXPLORATION, UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
24 ALL FORCES OF POTENTIAL ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND WEALTH IN  
25 THE REGION SHALL BE ALLOWED TO ALL FILIPINOS AND TO PRIVATE  
26 ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING CORPORATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, COOPERATIVES  
27 AND SUCH OTHER SIMILAR COLLECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDED, THAT  
28 AT LEAST SIXTY PERCENT (60%) OF THEIR CAPITAL INVESTMENTS  
29 AND/OR CAPITAL STOCKS ARE DIRECTLY CONTROLLED OR OWNED BY  
30 FILIPINOS PREFERABLY RESIDENTS OF THE REGION, UNLESS OTHERWISE  
31 PROVIDED BY LAW. NO COMPANY SHALL BE ALLOWED TO DO BUSINESS IN  
32 THE REGION WITHOUT TAKING A LOCAL RESIDENT AS AN EQUITY-

1 PARTICIPANT OR A PARTNER.

2 NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL OPERATE TO PREJUDICE THE  
3 RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES OVER THEIR  
4 ANCESTRAL DOMAIN, AS MAY BE PROVIDED FOR BY LAW.

5 SEC. 3. SMALL-SCALE MINING SHALL RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM  
6 AND BE REGULATED BY THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT,  
7 CONSIDERING ECOLOGICAL BALANCE AND THE INTEREST OF THE  
8 COMMUNITIES WHERE SUCH OPERATIONS ARE CONDUCTED.

9 SEC. 4. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AS A MATTER  
10 OF PRIORITY, SHALL REGULATE THE PROCESSING AND EXTRACTION OF  
11 MINERAL AND NON-MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE REGION TO PROTECT THE  
12 ECOSYSTEM, INCLUDING SETTING LIMITATIONS ON OPEN PIT MINING AND  
13 SIMILAR METHODS.

14 SEC. 5. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT MAY  
15 ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MANAGE PUBLIC UTILITIES WHICH ARE OF A  
16 PIONEERING NATURE AND WHICH WILL NOT COMPETE WITH PRIVATE  
17 BUSINESS. THESE BUSINESSES MAYBE TRANSFERRED TO PRIVATE  
18 INDIVIDUALS, COOPERATIVES, PARTNERSHIPS OR CORPORATIONS WHO  
19 PREFERABLY ARE RESIDENTS OR WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICES,  
20 RESPECTIVELY, IN THE REGION IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW AND UPON  
21 PAYMENT OF JUST COMPENSATION.

22 SEC. 6. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL  
23 PROMULGATE LAWS FOR THE JUST COMPENSATION, REHABILITATION,  
24 RELOCATION, AND OTHER SIMILAR MEASURES OF INHABITANTS AFFECTED  
25 ADVERSELY IN THE HARNESSING OF NATURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES IN  
26 THE REGION.

27 SEC. 7. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
28 REQUIRE COMPANIES OPERATING IN ITS TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION TO  
29 RECRUIT TRAINEES, TOTALING AT LEAST TEN PERCENT (10%) OF ITS  
30 WORKFORCE IN THE REGION WHERE AVAILABLE.

31 PREFERENCE IN THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL  
32 AMONG COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE REGION SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE

1 LOCAL INHABITANTS, UNLESS A PARTICULAR EXPERTISE OR SKILL IS  
2 UNAVAILABLE. IN WHICH CASE THE HIRING OF NON-RESIDENTS OF THE  
3 REGION MAY BE ALLOWED.

4 SEC. 8. ALL ACTS OF WANTONNESS, SUCH AS THE ABUSE OF  
5 INTOXICANTS, DRUGS AND GAMBLING SHALL BE STRICTLY REGULATED  
6 AND/OR PROHIBITED WITH DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE CUSTOMS AND  
7 BELIEFS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE REGION.

8 SEC. 9. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT A  
9 LAW ON INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM FOR CUSTOMERS OF PUBLIC  
10 SERVICE UTILITIES, LIKE WATERWORKS, ELECTRICITY, TELEPHONE AND  
11 SIMILAR UTILITIES. IT MAY PROVIDE SANCTIONS AS MAY BE  
12 NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE CONSUMING PUBLIC.

13 SEC. 10. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT MAY ADOPT A  
14 POLICY TO PROMOTE PROFIT SHARING, BROAD-BASED OWNERSHIP AND  
15 PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING IN THE PRIVATE BUSINESS  
16 SECTOR.

17 SEC. 11. IN THE DELIVERY OF POWER SERVICES, PRIORITY  
18 SHALL BE GIVEN TO PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE  
19 AREA OF AUTONOMY, WHICH DO NOT HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO SUCH  
20 SERVICES. TO THIS END, ISLAND PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES  
21 SHALL BE SUPPLIED WITH POWER THROUGH SUBMARINE CABLES AND/OR  
22 OTHER ECONOMICAL POWER FACILITIES TO SPUR THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
23 THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THESE AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
24 PLANS ADOPTED BY THE REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

25 SEC. 12. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY CREATE A  
26 REGIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION, WHOSE COMPOSITION,  
27 DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY LAW.

28 SEC. 13. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
29 RECOGNIZE, PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF  
30 FARMERS, FARMWORKERS, FISHERMEN AND FISHFARM WORKERS AS WELL AS  
31 COOPERATIVES AND OTHER INDEPENDENT FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS AND  
32 FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.

1           SEC. 14. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
2 ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY.

3           SEC. 15. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
4 ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE DIVERSIFIED AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING  
5 SYSTEM.

6           SEC. 16. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL GIVE  
7 TOP PRIORITY IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, UTILIZATION AND  
8 DEVELOPMENT OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURAL  
9 PURPOSES.

10          SEC. 17. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT  
11 A REGIONAL FISHERY CODE WHICH SHALL ENHANCE, DEVELOP, CONSERVE  
12 AND PROTECT THE MARINE AND AQUATIC RESOURCES. IT SHALL PROTECT  
13 THE RIGHTS OF SUBSISTENCE FISHERMEN, ESPECIALLY OF LOCAL  
14 COMMUNITIES, TO THE PREFERENTIAL USE OF THE COMMUNAL MARINE AND  
15 FISHING RESOURCES, BOTH INLAND AND OFFSHORE. THE PROTECTION  
16 SHALL EXTEND TO OFFSHORE FISHING GROUNDS OF SUBSISTENCE  
17 FISHERMEN AS DEFINED BY LAW. FISHERMEN AND FISHFARM WORKERS  
18 SHALL ALSO RECEIVE A JUST SHARE FROM THEIR LABOR IN THE  
19 UTILIZATION OF MARINE AND FISHING RESOURCES.

20          SEC. 18. PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS TO UTILIZE, DEVELOP,  
21 COLLECT, PROCESS AND MARKET MARINE AND OTHER AQUATIC RESOURCES  
22 IN THE SEAS OF THE REGION SHALL BE GRANTED TO BONAFIDE  
23 RESIDENTS OF THE REGION.

24          SEC. 19. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHALL BE GEARED TOWARDS  
25 THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE RESOURCES OF THE  
26 REGION.

27          SEC. 20. THE DEVELOPMENT, ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROMOTION  
28 OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN THE REGION SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY  
29 OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

30           IT SHALL ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPABILITY  
31 IN THE REGION. FURTHER, IT SHALL RECOGNIZE, PROMOTE AND  
32 PROTECT PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVES, COTTAGE, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SCALE

1 INDUSTRIES BY PROVIDING AMONG OTHER THINGS MARKETING  
2 OPPORTUNITIES, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, TAX INCENTIVES,  
3 APPROPRIATE AND ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY, TECHNICAL TRAINING TO  
4 PRODUCE SEMI-FINISHED AND FINISHED PRODUCTS.

5 IT SHALL LIKEWISE ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT  
6 OF BANKS INCLUDING THOSE THAT ADHERE TO THE CONCEPT OF /THE  
7 ISLAMIC BANKING SYSTEM.

8 SEC. 21. AN OFFICE OF BARTER TRADE SHALL BE CREATED.  
9 IT SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY OVER BARTER TRADING AS DEFINED BY  
10 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LAWS.

11 SEC. 22. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
12 ENCOURAGE, PROMOTE, UNDERTAKE, AND SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
13 ECONOMIC ZONES, INDUSTRIAL CENTERS, AND OPEN PORTS IN STRATEGIC  
14 AREAS AND GROWTH CENTERS OF THE REGION TO ATTRACT LOCAL AND  
15 FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES SUBJECT TO THE  
16 REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND DEVELOPMENT AS  
17 DEFINED BY NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LAWS.

18 SEC. 23. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
19 REGULATE MONOPOLIES AND IF THE PUBLIC INTEREST SO REQUIRES,  
20 THEY SHALL BE PROHIBITED. NO COMBINATION IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE  
21 AND UNFAIR COMPETITION SHALL BE ALLOWED SUBJECT TO NATIONAL AND  
22 REGIONAL LAWS.

23 SEC. 24. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
24 REGULATE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WITHIN ITS REGIONAL JURISDICTION  
25 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS GOALS AND PRIORITIES SUBJECT TO THE  
26 CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS.

27 SEC. 25. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
28 DEVELOP TOURISM AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING GREATER PRIDE IN, AND  
29 COMMITMENT TO THE NATION. TO THIS END, IT SHALL FORMULATE  
30 INTEGRATED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS AND  
31 PROJECTS THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
32 THE IDEALS, NEEDS, ASPIRATIONS AND BELIEFS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE

1 REGION.

2 SEC. 26. SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS,  
3 ALL LANDS AND OTHER AREAS BELONGING TO THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL  
4 COMMUNITIES IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION BY HISTORIC RIGHT OR  
5 EQUITABLE OR IMPERFECT TITLE; BY CUSTOMARY TITLE, BY ACTUAL OR  
6 CONSTRUCTIVE OCCUPATION AND POSSESSION INCLUDING ALIENABLE AND  
7 DISPOSABLE LANDS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN, LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN  
8 UNDISPOSED OF OR LEASED, FORESTS, PASTURE LANDS, AND HUNTING  
9 GROUNDS, SHOALS, SEASHORES, FISHING GROUNDS, CORAL REEFS,  
10 SACRED SHRINES, WORSHIPPING AND BURIAL GROUNDS AND TREES,  
11 AND ANCIENT SETTLEMENT SITES ARE HEREBY DECLARED AS ANCESTRAL  
12 DOMAIN; PROVIDED, THAT VALID CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP OVER LANDS  
13 WHICH HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF BY THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL  
14 COMMUNITY OR BY ITS MEMBERS, DONATED TO OR ACQUIRED BY  
15 QUALIFIED TRANSFEREES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOMARY LAWS OF A  
16 SPECIFIC TRIBE OR THE NATIONAL LAWS SHALL BE RESPECTED AND  
17 GUARANTEED; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THESE ACQUISITIONS HAVE  
18 BEEN MADE IN GOOD FAITH.

19 SEC. 27. INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITY REFERS TO A  
20 GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NATIVE INHABITANTS OCCUPYING A  
21 TERRITORIAL BASE IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION SHARING COMMON BONDS  
22 OF LANGUAGE, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, BELIEFS AND OTHER DISTINCTIVE  
23 CULTURAL TRAITS, AND HAVE REMAINED HISTORICALLY AND CULTURALLY  
24 DISTINCT FROM THE MAJORITY OF FILIPINOS.

25 SEC. 28. SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS,  
26 THE CUSTOMARY LAWS, TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS  
27 CULTURAL COMMUNITIES ON LAND CLAIMS AND OWNERSHIP AND  
28 SETTLEMENT OF LAND DISPUTES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AND ENFORCED  
29 AMONG THE MEMBERS OF SUCH COMMUNITIES.

30 SEC. 29. SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS,  
31 THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA  
32 OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

1 (A) A PRIOR RIGHT TO USE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE  
2 ANCESTRAL DOMAIN;

3 (B) PARTICIPATE IN, AND BE CONSULTED ON, THE  
4 DETERMINATION OF AREAS OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN; AND

5 (C) REACQUIRE LANDS WITHIN THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN ACQUIRED  
6 ILLEGALLY BY ANY PERSON, CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND SIMILAR  
7 ENTITY. IF THE REACQUISITION IS NOT FEASIBLE, JUST  
8 COMPENSATION MAY BE PAID THEREFOR.

9 SEC. 30. IT SHALL BE THE DUTIES OF THE INDIGENOUS  
10 CULTURAL COMMUNITIES:

11 (A) TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN A HEALTHFUL AND BALANCED  
12 ECOLOGY IN THE AREA OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN BY PROTECTING THE FLORA  
13 AND THE FAUNA, WATERSHED AREAS, HUNTING GROUNDS, SEAS, LAKES,  
14 RIVERS, SWAMPS INCLUDING SHRINES AND BURIAL GROUNDS, AND SACRED  
15 TREES;

16 (B) TO ACTIVELY INITIATE, UNDERTAKE AND PARTICIPATE IN  
17 REFORESTATION OF THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN; AND

18 (C) TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANCESTRAL  
19 DOMAIN.

20 SEC. 31. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL, WITHIN  
21 TWELVE (12) MONTHS FROM ITS ORGANIZATION, CREATE A REGIONAL  
22 COMMISSION ON ANCESTRAL DOMAIN AND DEFINE ITS FUNCTIONS AND  
23 DUTIES SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS.

24 SEC. 32. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON  
25 ANCESTRAL DOMAIN, LANDS IN THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN TITLED TO OR  
26 OWNED BY MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES MAY NOT  
27 BE DISPOSED OF TO NON-MEMBERS.

28 SEC. 33. SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL LAWS,  
29 NO PART OF THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN SHALL BE OPEN TO RESETTLEMENT  
30 BY NON-MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES.

31 SEC. 34. SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION,  
32 THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW AND OTHER NATIONAL LAWS,

1 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT AN AGRARIAN  
2 REFORM LAW SUITED TO THE PECULIAR SITUATION AND CULTURAL  
3 REALITIES PREVAILING IN THE AREA OF AUTONOMY. LAND  
4 DISTRIBUTION OR REDISTRIBUTION IN AREAS OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN  
5 SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TRADITIONS, PRACTICES AND CUSTOMARY  
6 LAWS AND THE NEEDS OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES  
7 DETERMINED THROUGH PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE  
8 APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ON THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

9 SEC. 35. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ENSURE  
10 THE PROMOTION OF ACCELERATED SOCIAL PROGRESS AND TOTAL HUMAN  
11 DEVELOPMENT.

12 SEC. 36. WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS AFTER ITS ORGANIZATION,  
13 THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL INITIATE, FORMULATE  
14 AND IMPLEMENT SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR THE  
15 UNDERDEVELOPED INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES RESPONSIVE TO  
16 THEIR PARTICULAR ASPIRATIONS, NEEDS AND VALUES.

17 SEC. 37. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
18 PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES OF THE AUTONOMOUS  
19 REGION TO ALL PROVINCES, CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES AND BARANGAYS  
20 WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

21 SEC. 38. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL CREATE  
22 A REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD WHICH SHALL SERVE AS  
23 THE CENTRAL PLANNING, MONITORING AND COORDINATING AGENCY FOR  
24 THE AUTONOMOUS REGION AND WHICH SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PRINCIPLE  
25 OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING, MONITORING AND  
26 COORDINATING OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL  
27 GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE DULY CONSIDERED BY PLANNING FROM THE  
28 BOTTOM UP. IT SHALL PERFORM SUCH OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES AS  
29 MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW.

30 SEC. 39. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
31 FORMULATE POLICIES AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS FOR BALANCED AND  
32 HEALTHFUL ECOLOGY IN ACCORD WITH THE RHYTHM AND HARMONY OF



1 NATURE THAT WILL SUSTAIN HUMAN PROGRESS.

2 SEC. 40. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
3 PROMOTE A PROGRAM OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD WHICH SHALL BE  
4 BASED ON THE PARENTS' FREE AND INFORMED CHOICE ON THE NUMBER OF  
5 CHILDREN AND THE MANNER OF MANAGING FAMILY SIZE, WITHOUT  
6 PREJUDICE TO THEIR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL VALUES.

7 SEC. 41. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL,  
8 WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM ITS ORGANIZATION, UNDERTAKE REFORESTATION  
9 PROGRAMS TO ENSURE THAT AT LEAST FORTY PER CENTUM OF THE LAND  
10 SURFACE SHALL BE COVERED WITH TREES, GIVING PRIORITY TO LAND  
11 STRIPS ALONG THE EDGES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS AND SHORELINES OF  
12 LAKES.

13 IT SHALL ADOPT SUCH APPROPRIATE MEASURES AND RELEVANT  
14 TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LANDS EIGHTEEN PER CENTUM  
15 IN SLOPE OR OVER AND ASSIST UPLAND COMMUNITIES TO RAISE THEIR  
16 STANDARD OF LIVING.

17 SEC. 42. SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION,  
18 THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL SPECIFY THE LIMITS OF  
19 FOREST LANDS, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARKS AND WATERSHED AREAS  
20 IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, MARKING CLEARLY THEIR BOUNDARIES ON THE  
21 GROUND; THEREAFTER, SUCH AREAS SHALL BE STRICTLY CONSERVED AND  
22 MAY NOT BE INCREASED OR DIMINISHED, EXCEPT BY LAW. IT SHALL  
23 DEVELOP LOCAL CAPABILITIES ON TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT.

24 SEC. 43. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
25 STRICTLY IMPLEMENT THE NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE POLICY OF THE NATIONAL  
26 GOVERNMENT AND SHALL LIKEWISE PROHIBIT THE USE, IMPORTATION,  
27 DEPOSIT, AND DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND THE DUMPING OF  
28 TOXIC OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES WITHIN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

29 SEC. 44. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL CREATE  
30 A COMMISSION ON ECOLOGY TO ENSURE AND MAINTAIN ECOLOGICAL  
31 BALANCE AND THE CONTINUOUS USEFULNESS OF LAKE LANAO AND OTHER  
32 LAKES AND WATERSHED AREAS IN THE REGION. IT SHALL HAVE SUCH

1 OTHER FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES AS MAY BE DEFINED BY LAW.

2 ARTICLE XI

3 EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ARTS AND SPORTS

4 SEC. 1. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
5 ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND SUPPORT A COMPLETE AND INTEGRATED  
6 SYSTEM OF QUALITY EDUCATION AND ADOPT AN EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK  
7 THAT IS MEANINGFUL, RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS,  
8 IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE REGION.

9 SEC. 2. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT ADOPTS THE  
10 EDUCATIONAL POLICIES THAT ARE ENUNCIATED IN THE CONSTITUTION AND  
11 NATIONAL LAWS.

12 SEC. 3. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ALSO  
13 DEVELOP A REGIONAL LANGUAGE FROM THE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES OR  
14 DIALECTS IN THE REGION TO ENRICH THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

15 SEC. 4. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION  
16 SHALL DEVELOP CONSCIOUSNESS AND APPRECIATION OF ONE'S ETHNIC  
17 IDENTITY AND SHALL PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH  
18 OTHER'S CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY  
19 AND HARMONY.

20 SEC. 5. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE  
21 FREE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. IT SHALL ALSO  
22 ACCREDIT AND SUPERVISE PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IN THE  
23 REGION INCLUDING THE MADARIS PURSUANT TO LAW. TAX INCENTIVES  
24 AS DEFINED BY LAW SHALL BE AFFORDED TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS  
25 PURSUING COLLEGE EDUCATION.

26 SEC. 6. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY PROVIDE BY  
27 LAW A FOUR YEAR PRIMARY AND A THREE YEAR INTERMEDIATE  
28 EDUCATION; A 2-2 YEAR SECONDARY EDUCATION; AND A FOUR YEAR OR  
29 MORE COLLEGE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS WITHIN THE REGION.

30 SEC. 7. PROFESSIONAL AND BAR TESTING CENTERS MAY BE  
31 ESTABLISHED IN THE REGION.

32 SEC. 8. AT THE OPTION EXPRESSED IN WRITING BY THE

1 PARENTS OR GUARDIANS, RELIGION SHALL BE TAUGHT TO THEIR  
2 CHILDREN OR WARDS IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS WITHIN  
3 THE REGULAR CLASS HOURS BY INSTRUCTORS DESIGNATED OR APPROVED  
4 BY THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES OF THE RELIGION TO WHICH THE  
5 CHILDREN OR WARDS BELONG, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COST TO THE  
6 GOVERNMENT.

7 SEC. 9. CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL POLICIES AND GOALS OF  
8 EDUCATION, THE REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SHALL DEVELOP  
9 CURRICULA THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL,  
10 POLITICAL, CULTURAL, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE IN  
11 THE REGION. TO THIS END,

12 (A) MUSLIM, TRIDAL AND CHRISTIAN CULTURES SHALL BE TAUGHT  
13 IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REGION TO DEVELOP, PROMOTE AND ENHANCE  
14 UNITY IN DIVERSITY.

15 (B) FILIPINO AND ENGLISH SHALL BE THE MEDIA OF  
16 INSTRUCTION IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REGION, UNLESS OTHERWISE  
17 PROVIDED FOR BY LAW. MAJOR LANGUAGES OF THE REGION SHALL BE  
18 AUXILIARY MEDIA OF INSTRUCTION.

19 (C) WHERE FEASIBLE, THE ARABIC LANGUAGE SHALL BE A  
20 COMPULSORY SUBJECT FOR MUSLIMS AND OPTIONAL FOR NON-MUSLIMS IN  
21 ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REGION.

22 (D) THE STUDY OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION, THE ORGANIC  
23 ACT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, ECOLOGY, PEACE AS A WAY OF LIFE  
24 AND HEALTH EDUCATION SHALL BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE  
25 CURRICULUM IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REGION.

26 SEC. 10. STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WITHIN THE  
27 AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL CONTINUE TO ENJOY FISCAL AND  
28 ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY SUBJECT TO REGIONAL LAW.

29 SEC. 11. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL PROMOTE  
30 AND DEVELOP THE TRIBAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH SHALL INCLUDE  
31 BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIBAL STATE  
32 UNIVERSITY WHENEVER FEASIBLE.

1 SEC. 12. ALL ACCREDITED MADARIS (ARABIC SCHOOLS) IN THE  
2 AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE SUPERVISED BY THE REGIONAL  
3 AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

4 A SYSTEM OF ACCREDITATION SHALL BE PROVIDED BY REGIONAL  
5 LAW. THE MADRASAH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SHALL RECEIVE THE SUPPORT  
6 OF HE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

7 SEC. 13. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY ENACT  
8 LAWS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION ON SCIENCE AND  
9 TECHNOLOGY.

10 IN ADDITION, IT SHALL PASS MEASURES:

11 (A) TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP THE SCIENTIFIC AND  
12 TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES INDIGENOUS AND APPROPRIATE TO THE  
13 REGION; AND

14 (B) TO ENCOURAGE THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF  
15 ALL SECTORS IN THE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, COORDINATION, AND  
16 IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCHES AND  
17 THE ACQUISITION, ADAPTATION, INNOVATION AND APPLICATION OF  
18 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

19 SEC. 14. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SHALL DEVELOP AND  
20 MAINTAIN AN INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
21 PROGRAM. IT SHALL DEVELOP HEALTHY, DISCIPLINED, CREATIVE,  
22 INNOVATIVE, PRODUCTIVE INDIVIDUALS AND PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF  
23 SPORTSMANSHIP, COOPERATION, TEAMWORK, GOODWILL AND  
24 UNDERSTANDING.

25 SEC. 15. THERE SHALL BE CREATED A REGIONAL CENTER FOR  
26 THE TRAINING OF OUTSTANDING ATHLETES, SPORTS AND PHYSICAL  
27 EDUCATION TEACHERS, COACHES, REFEREES AND ADMINISTRATORS.

28 SEC. 16. THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE  
29 AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF REGIONAL  
30 DEVELOPMENT.

31 SEC. 17. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CREATE  
32 A REGIONAL BUREAU ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DEFINE ITS

1 COMPOSITION, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.

2 ARTICLE XII

3 SOCIAL JUSTICE, SERVICES, AND THE FAMILY

4 SEC. 1. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL GIVE  
5 HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE ENACTMENT OF MEASURES THAT PROTECT AND  
6 ENHANCE HUMAN DIGNITY, REDUCE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL  
7 INEQUALITIES, CULTURAL INEQUITIES BY EQUITABLY DIFFUSING WEALTH  
8 AND POLITICAL POWER FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

9 SEC. 2. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CREATE  
10 THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEFINE ITS DUTIES  
11 AND FUNCTIONS SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS.

12 SEC. 3. (A) THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
13 SHALL BE COMPOSED OF A CHAIRMAN AND TWO (2) MEMBERS, WHO SHALL  
14 BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE  
15 REGIONAL COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS. THE CHAIRMAN SHALL BE A  
16 MEMBER OF THE BAR. THE TERM OF OFFICE AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS  
17 AND DISABILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE  
18 PROVIDED FOR BY LAW.

19 (B) THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED  
20 WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE ELECTION OF THE GOVERNOR.

21 (C) THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE  
22 AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
23 WHICH SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY AND REGULARLY RELEASED TO THE  
24 COMMISSION.

25 SEC. 4. (A) THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT  
26 RECOGNIZES HEALTH AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT AND SHALL, BY LAW,  
27 PROTECT, PROMOTE, MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE HEALTH OF EVERY  
28 RESIDENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

29 IT SHALL PROVIDE FOR AN INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE  
30 APPROACH TO HOLISTIC HEALTH DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHALL DIRECT THE  
31 REGION'S HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM ALONG THE CONCEPT OF PRIMARY  
32 HEALTH CARE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE CULTURAL AND

1 TRADITIONAL HEALTH PRACTICES OF THE REGION.

2 (B) IT SHALL PROVIDE FREE MEDICAL CARE TO PAUPERS.

3 SEC. 5. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
4 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE FOOD AND DRUG REGULATORY  
5 SYSTEM WHICH SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN ESSENTIAL  
6 DRUG LIST, ENCOURAGE THE USE OF GENERIC MEDICINES OR DRUGS AND  
7 PROMOTE THE USE OF HERBAL MEDICINES AND INDIGENOUS HEALTH  
8 RESOURCES.

9 SEC. 6. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
10 UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE HEALTH MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH  
11 RESPONSIVE TO THE REGION'S HEALTH NEEDS AND PROBLEMS.

12 SEC. 7. THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN SHALL BE  
13 A PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT. TO  
14 THIS END, CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS ESPECIALLY ON NUTRITION AND  
15 DISEASE PREVENTION SHALL BE PURSUED AND SUSTAINED.

16 SEC. 8. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES  
17 LABOR AS A PRIMARY SOCIAL ECONOMIC FORCE FOR DEVELOPMENT. IT  
18 SHALL AFFORD FULL PROTECTION TO LABOR, PROMOTE FULL EMPLOYMENT,  
19 ENSURE EQUAL WORK OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF SEX, RACE OR  
20 CREED, AND REGULATE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN WORKERS AND  
21 EMPLOYERS.

22 SEC. 9. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT ENSURES THE  
23 RIGHT OF LABOR TO ITS JUST SHARE IN THE FRUITS OF PRODUCTION,  
24 AND THE RIGHT OF ENTERPRISE TO REASONABLE RETURNS ON  
25 INVESTMENTS, AND TO EXPANSION AND GROWTH.

26 SEC. 10. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
27 ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF COOPERATIVES AND CREDIT  
28 UNIONS INTENDED TO BENEFIT THE EMPLOYEES AND LABORERS IN THE  
29 PLANTATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND OTHER ENTERPRISES IN THE REGION.

30 SEC. 11. IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REGIONAL  
31 AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE A JUST AND DYNAMIC SOCIAL  
32 ORDER THAT WILL ENSURE PROSPERITY OF THE REGION AND FREE THE

1 PEOPLE FROM THE BONDAGE OF POVERTY THROUGH POLICIES THAT WILL  
2 PROVIDE ADEQUATE SOCIAL SERVICES, A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING,  
3 AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING.

4 SEC. 12. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL WITHIN  
5 ONE YEAR FROM ITS ORGANIZATION ENACT MEASURES EMBODYING  
6 REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF RETURNEES AND  
7 REJOINEES. A REHABILITATION PROGRAM SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR  
8 DISPLACED PERSONS AND/OR COMMUNITIES AND VICTIMS OF MAN-MADE OR  
9 NATURAL CALAMITIES.

10 SEC. 13. THE CARE AND WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY, DISABLED,  
11 RETIREES AND VETERANS SHALL ENJOY REGIONAL SUPPORT AND  
12 PROTECTION OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

13 SEC. 14. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL EVOLVE  
14 ITS OWN HOUSING PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE LOW-COST,  
15 DECENT, AND HEALTHFUL HOUSING FACILITIES AND OTHER BASIC  
16 SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE REGION SPECIALLY THE POOR AND  
17 DISADVANTAGED SECTORS. WHERE FEASIBLE, THE PRIVATE SECTOR MAY  
18 BE INVOLVED IN THE HOUSING PROGRAM.

19 SEC. 15. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
20 PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND RESPECT THE ROLE OF PEOPLE'S  
21 ORGANIZATIONS. NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS SHALL BE ENCOURAGED  
22 AND ASSISTED IN THEIR WORK OF UPLIFTING THE GENERAL WELL-BEING  
23 OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

24 SEC. 16. THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO EFFECTIVE AND  
25 REASONABLE PARTICIPATION AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL,  
26 AND ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING SHALL BE INVIOLEABLE.

27 SEC. 17. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES  
28 THE FILIPINO FAMILY AS THE FOUNDATION OF THE NATION. IT SHALL  
29 STRENGTHEN ITS SOLIDARITY AND ACTIVELY PROMOTE ITS TOTAL  
30 DEVELOPMENT.

31 SEC. 18. MARRIAGE, AS AN INVIOLEABLE SOCIAL INSTITUTION,  
32 IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY AND SHALL BE PROTECTED BY THE

1 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BELIEFS,  
2 CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE REGION.

3 SEC. 19. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL  
4 ENSURE, GUARANTEE, AND DEFEND:

5 (A) THE RIGHT OF THE UNBORN TO LIFE FROM THE MOMENT OF  
6 ITS CONCEPTION;

7 (B) THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING PROPER  
8 CARE AND NUTRITION, AND SPECIAL PROTECTION FROM ALL FORMS OF  
9 NEGLECT, ABUSE, CRUELTY, EXPLOITATION, AND OTHER CONDITIONS  
10 PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING;

11 (C) THE RIGHT OF FAMILIES OR FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS TO  
12 ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN POLICY-MAKING, PLANNING AND  
13 IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT THEM; AND

14 (D) THE RIGHT OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS TO THE CARE,  
15 RESPECT, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT OF THEIR FAMILY AND SOCIETY.

16 SEC. 20. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES  
17 THE VITAL ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN NATION BUILDING. IT SHALL  
18 PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THEIR NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS TO BECOME GOD-  
19 LOVING AND GOD-FEARING, INDUSTRIOUS, WORK AND VALUE-ORIENTED,  
20 EDUCATED, DISCIPLINED, SELF-RELIANT, PATRIOTIC AND  
21 NATIONALISTIC CITIZENS.

22 SEC. 21. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CREATE  
23 THE OFFICE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND DEFINE ITS COMPOSITION,  
24 POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.

25 SEC. 22. THERE SHALL BE AT LEAST ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE  
26 FROM THE YOUTH SECTOR IN EACH LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE LOCAL  
27 GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, UNDER SUCH  
28 GUIDELINES AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

29 SEC. 23. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES  
30 THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN NATION-BUILDING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.  
31 IT SHALL PROMOTE THEIR WELL-BEING AND ENSURE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL  
32 RIGHTS AND PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN BEFORE



1 THE LAW.

2 IT SHALL TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES AGAINST ALL FORMS OF  
3 EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION OF WOMEN.

4 SEC. 24. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CREATE  
5 THE REGIONAL BUREAU ON WOMEN AND DEFINE ITS COMPOSITION,  
6 POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS.

7 ARTICLE XIII

8 GENERAL PROVISIONS

9 SEC. 1. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IS HEREBY  
10 EMPOWERED TO ENACT MEASURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN OFFICIAL  
11 FLAG, SEAL AND A REGIONAL HYMN OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

12 THE REGIONAL FLAG MUST ALWAYS BE DISPLAYED WITH THE  
13 NATIONAL FLAG OCCUPYING THE PLACE OF HONOR. THE REGIONAL HYMN  
14 WHEN SUNG OR PLAYED MUST BE PRECEDED BY THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.  
15 UNTIL OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY REGIONAL LAW, FILIPINO, ENGLISH AND  
16 ARABIC SHALL BE THE OFFICIAL REGIONAL LANGUAGES.

17 SEC. 2. THIS ORGANIC ACT SHALL BE OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED  
18 IN FILIPINO, ENGLISH AND ARABIC, AND TRANSLATED INTO OTHER  
19 LANGUAGES OR DIALECTS WIDELY SPOKEN IN THE REGION ALL EQUAL IN  
20 LEGAL EFFECT. IN CASE OF CONFLICT, THE ENGLISH TEXT SHALL  
21 PREVAIL.

22 SEC. 3. THE PEOPLE OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION ARE AN  
23 INTEGRAL PART OF THE FILIPINO NATION. ITS TERRITORIAL  
24 BOUNDARIES ARE INSEPARABLE COMPONENTS OF THE TERRITORIAL  
25 INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
26 PHILIPPINES. NO REGIONAL LAW OR ORDINANCE SHALL BE ENACTED  
27 THAT WOULD VIOLATE OR INFRINGE ON THIS CONSTITUTIONAL POLICY OR  
28 MANDATE.

29 SEC. 4. ALL PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS  
30 MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL POLICE FORCE AND THE MILITARY  
31 ESTABLISHMENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE AN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE  
32 TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND

1 THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION AND THIS ORGANIC ACT.

2 SEC. 5. THE DEFENSE AND REGIONAL SECURITY OF THE  
3 AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL  
4 GOVERNMENT. THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL STATION  
5 AND DEPLOY A SUFFICIENT FORCE IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION AND  
6 MAINTAIN A CENTRAL COMMAND WITH GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AT THE  
7 SEAT OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT; PROVIDED, THAT  
8 MILITARY MEN WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE REGION SHALL BE GIVEN  
9 PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE REGION.

10 SEC. 6. NO MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES  
11 IN THE ACTIVE SERVICE SHALL, AT ANY TIME, BE APPOINTED OR  
12 DESIGNATED IN ANY CAPACITY TO A CIVILIAN POSITION IN THE  
13 REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OWNED OR  
14 CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS OR IN ANY OF THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND/OR  
15 INSTRUMENTALITIES WITHIN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

16 ALL RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY NOT BE EMPLOYED IN  
17 GOVERNMENT WITHIN THREE (3) YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR  
18 RETIREMENT.

19 SEC. 7. THE ELECTION LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
20 PHILIPPINES SHALL APPLY TO THE CONDUCT OF ALL ELECTIONS IN THE  
21 AUTONOMOUS REGION. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY,  
22 HOWEVER, RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS SPECIAL  
23 PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE ELECTIONS WITHIN THE AREA OF  
24 AUTONOMY.

25 SEC. 8. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL PROVIDE  
26 FOR A SYSTEM OF RECALL FOR REGIONAL ELECTIVE OFFICIALS.

27 SEC. 9. THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL GIVE  
28 HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE PURSUIT, MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF  
29 PEACE AND ORDER IN THE AREA OF AUTONOMY. TOWARDS THIS END, IT  
30 SHALL ADOPT THE NECESSARY MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE,  
31 LIBERTY, AND PROPERTY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

32 SEC. 10. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL CREATE

1 THE REGIONAL POLICE FORCE. IT SHALL BE HEADED BY A POLICE  
2 COMMISSIONER WITH TWO DEPUTIES, ALL OF WHOM SHALL BE  
3 INHABITANTS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, APPOINTED BY THE  
4 PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
5 GOVERNOR OF THE REGION.

6 THE REGIONAL POLICE FORCE SHALL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION  
7 OF THE GOVERNOR, PROVIDED THAT CITY OR MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVES WHO  
8 ARE HEREBY CONSTITUTED AS EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
9 NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION  
10 OF THE POLICE FORCES WITHIN THEIR CONSTITUENT UNITS.

11 SEC. 11. THE AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND  
12 MAINTAIN A REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY.

13 ARTICLE XIV

14 AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS

15 SEC. 1. CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
16 CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL LAWS, THIS ORGANIC ACT MAY BE  
17 AMENDED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES UPON A MAJORITY VOTE  
18 OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTING  
19 SEPARATELY.

20 SEC. 2. ANY AMENDMENT TO, OR REVISION OF THIS ORGANIC  
21 ACT, UNDER SECTION 1 HEREOF SHALL BE VALID WHEN RATIFIED BY A  
22 MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST IN A PLEBISCITE WHICH SHALL BE HELD  
23 NOT EARLIER THAN SIXTY DAYS NOR LATER THAN NINETY DAYS AFTER  
24 THE APPROVAL OF SUCH AMENDMENT OR REVISION.

25 SEC. 3. SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION  
26 AND NATIONAL LAWS, AMENDMENTS TO THIS ORGANIC ACT MAY LIKEWISE  
27 BE DIRECTLY PROPOSED BY THE PEOPLE THROUGH INITIATIVE UPON A  
28 PETITION OF AT LEAST TWELVE PERCENTUM OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF  
29 REGISTERED VOTERS, OF WHICH EVERY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MUST BE  
30 REPRESENTED BY AT LEAST THREE PERCENTUM OF THE REGISTERED VOTES  
31 THEREIN. NO AMENDMENT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE AUTHORIZED  
32 WITHIN FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THIS ORGANIC

1 ACT OR OFTENER THAN ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER.  
2 THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE  
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXERCISE OF THIS RIGHT.

4 SEC. 4. ANY AMENDMENT UNDER SECTION 3 HEREOF SHALL BE  
5 VALID WHEN RATIFIED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST IN A  
6 PLEBISCITE WHICH SHALL BE HELD NOT EARLIER THAN SIXTY DAYS NOR  
7 LATER THAN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE CERTIFICATION BY THE  
8 COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE PETITION.

9 ARTICLE XV

10 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

11 SEC. 1. THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHALL WITHIN  
12 ONE YEAR FROM ITS ORGANIZATION ENACT A LAW PROHIBITING ALL  
13 LOGGING ACTIVITIES IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR SUCH PERIODS AS  
14 IT MAY DETERMINE.

15 SEC. 2. UNTIL THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS  
16 CONSTITUTED, THE EXISTING NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
17 SHALL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS PRESENT FUNCTIONS AND POWERS IN  
18 THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

19 SEC. 3. THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, COMMISSION ON  
20 ELECTIONS AND THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT SHALL REORGANIZE THEIR  
21 OFFICES TO CONFORM WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AUTONOMOUS  
22 REGION.

23 SEC. 4. ALL PERSONNEL OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND  
24 GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS WHO ARE ABSORBED BY THE REGIONAL  
25 GOVERNMENT SHALL RETAIN THEIR SENIORITY, COMPENSATION AND  
26 BENEFITS. THOSE WHO OPT TO RETIRE WILL BE GIVEN FULL BENEFITS  
27 UNDER EXISTING LAWS.

28 SEC. 5. PENDING THE ENACTMENT OF SUCH A REGIONAL LAW,  
29 THE BUDGETING REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS  
30 GOVERNMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY EXISTING PERTINENT LAWS AND  
31 RULES AND REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET  
32 AND MANAGEMENT (DBM).

1           SEC. 6.       THE PRESENT REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENTS OF  
2   REGIONS IX AND XII IS HEREBY ABOLISHED UPON THE ASSUMPTION OF  
3   OFFICE BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE NEWLY FORMED REGIONAL  
4   AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT. THE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS  
5   GOVERNMENT OF REGION IX AND XII SHALL TURN OVER ALL THE ASSETS  
6   AND LIABILITIES TO THE REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.  
7   PROVIDED THAT WHERE FEASIBLE QUALIFIED PERSONNELS OF THE  
8   AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT OF REGIONS IX AND XII SHALL BE GIVEN  
9   PREFERENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE NEW REGIONAL AUTONOMOUS  
10  GOVERNMENT.

11          SEC. 7.       THE FIRST REGULAR ELECTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR,  
12  VICE-GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
13  UNDER THIS ORGANIC ACT SHALL BE HELD NOT EARLIER THAN FORTY-  
14  FIVE DAYS NOR LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE RATIFICATION OF  
15  THIS ACT.

16          SEC. 8.       THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A CODE COMMISSION ON  
17  MUSLIM LAWS AND A CODE COMMISSION ON TRIBAL LAWS EACH OF WHICH  
18  SHALL BE COMPOSED OF A CHAIRMAN AND TWO (2) COMMISSIONERS WHO  
19  SHALL BE NATURAL BORN CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND RESIDENTS  
20  OF THE REGION. THE MEMBERS OF THE CODE COMMISSION ON MUSLIM  
21  LAWS MUST BE MUSLIMS AND EXPERTS IN MUSLIM AND PHILIPPINE LAWS,  
22  AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CODE COMMISSION ON TRIBAL LAWS MUST  
23  BELONG TO THE TRIBAL INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITY AND MUST BE  
24  EXPERTS IN TRIBAL AND PHILIPPINE LAWS.

25          SEC. 9.       THE CODE COMMISSIONS SHALL CODIFY TRIBAL LAWS  
26  AND ISLAMIC LAWS AND JURISPRUDENCE ON CIVIL RELATIONS,  
27  COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, CRIMINAL ACTS, AND ITS PENALTIES,  
28  EVIDENCE, RULES OF PROCEDURES, AND SIMILAR MATTERS, AND SHALL  
29  PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE PROVIDED FOR  
30  BY LAW. THEY SHALL COMPLETE THE CODIFICATION WORK WITHIN THREE  
31  YEARS AND SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
32  FOR ENACTMENT INTO LAW.

1           SEC. 10.           REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS SHALL BE  
2 ESTABLISHED TO TAKE OVER THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF NATIONAL  
3 GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS THAT ARE LOCATED  
4 IN THE REGION. THE TRANSFER OF ASSETS SHALL BE EFFECTED UPON  
5 PAYMENT OF REASONABLE COMPENSATION.

6           SEC. 11.           ALL LAWS, DECREES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, RULES  
7 AND REGULATIONS, ISSUANCES OR PARTS THEREOF INCONSISTENT WITH  
8 THIS ACT ARE HEREBY REPEALED OR AMENDED ACCORDINGLY.

9           SEC. 12. IF, FOR ANY REASON, ANY SECTION OR PROVISION OF  
10 THIS ACT IS DECLARED NULL AND VOID, NO OTHER SECTION,  
11 PROVISION, OR PART THEREOF SHALL BE AFFECTED AND THE SAME SHALL  
12 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

13          SEC. 13. THIS ORGANIC ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY  
14 UPON ITS RATIFICATION BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST IN A  
15 PLEBISCITE HELD FOR THE PURPOSE.

16          THE PROVINCES AND CITIES MENTIONED UNDER ARTICLE II,  
17 SECTION 1, PARAGRAPH B OF THIS ORGANIC ACT VOTING FAVORABLY IN  
18 THE PLEBISCITE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE ORGANIC ACT SHALL  
19 COMPRISE THE AUTONOMOUS REGION.

20           APPROVED,



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