



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 2854

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROSALES, AGUJA, HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL, ACOSTA, OCAMPO, LAGMAN, MAZA, ZAMORA (M.), MACARAMBON, JAWORSKI, TAÑADA, DE GUZMAN, BIAZON, AMIN, BATERINA, BANAAG, DUMARPA, DOMOGAN, MARCOLETA, VELARDE, CHAVEZ, MAGSAYSAY (E.), MAGTUBO, HATAMAN, CHIPECO AND CODILLA

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN PHILIPPINE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION AND PROTECTION BY ESTABLISHING HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Human
2 Rights Resource Center Act of 2006”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to
4 promote social justice in all phases of national development as it values the
5 dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. It
6 shall articulate the twenty-three (23) international covenants and treaties on

1 human rights, to which it is a signatory and has ratified in its national and local
2 laws.

3 It shall also be the policy of the State to give priority to education
4 among the youth to foster patriotism and nationalism that shall promote their
5 *total liberation and development* as a human being.

6 SEC. 3. *The Human Rights Resource Centers.* – Human rights resource
7 centers, hereinafter referred to as the HR Resource Centers, are hereby
8 established throughout the country to integrate the promotion and protection of
9 human rights in the implementation of the criminal justice system, in the
10 conduct of local governance and in local law enforcement. These centers shall
11 be the repository of all human rights concerns at the provincial level.

12 The HR Resource Centers shall be attached to the Office of the
13 Governor but the planning, policy-making and implementation shall be done
14 with transparency and accountability. However, the Regional Office of the
15 Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor,
16 the Office of the Provincial Commander of the Armed Forces of the
17 Philippines (AFP) and the Office of the Provincial Director of the Philippine
18 National Police (PNP) shall collaborate and coordinate in ensuring the
19 effective operation of the HR Resource Centers including, but not limited to,
20 the mobilization of resources and the provision of technical support.

1 At the operational level, the HR Resource Centers shall be headed by a
2 volunteer lawyer from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines with support staff
3 composed of volunteers from students of law schools who are rendering
4 paralegal services as part of their curriculum requirements, people's
5 organizations and nongovernment organizations (POs and NGOs, respectively)
6 with credibility in the locality and independent of the local government.

7 SEC. 4. *Functions of the HR Resource Centers.* – The HR Resource
8 Centers shall have the following functions:

9 (a) Set up a library of international covenants and treaties to which the
10 Philippines is a signatory, has acceded to and/or has ratified;

11 (b) Provide the necessary resource persons, literary and other
12 educational materials to persons or group of persons who advocate and work
13 for a continuing program of education that enhances respect for the primacy of
14 human rights;

15 (c) Monitor compliance with international treaty obligations and
16 national legislation on human rights for the purpose of ensuring the proper
17 enforcement of laws and observance of international obligations at the local
18 level;

19 (d) Coordinate with various government agencies involved in the
20 promotion and protection of various aspects of human rights, as well as with
21 the Presidential Committee on Human Rights;

1 (e) Coordinate with barangay, municipal and provincial human rights
2 officers, desks or committees, as the case may be, and with the Regional Office
3 of the CHR on issues arising from violations of civil, political, economic,
4 social and cultural rights of the people, particularly those of women and
5 children, for purposes of referring or endorsing the same through an
6 appropriate mechanism to the proper government agencies for appropriate
7 action and immediate resolution;

8 (f) Take an active part in efforts aimed at promoting peace and
9 development in the area and serve as the convergence point for these efforts at
10 the local level;

11 (g) Recommend the enactment of necessary local legislation that will
12 protect and promote human rights in the province; and

13 (h) Participate in the development planning and budgeting process of
14 the local government unit concerned using the principles of rights-based
15 development wherein development plans for the locality come from the
16 citizens who are targeted to be the direct beneficiaries of the plans rather than
17 the government imposing the plans on the citizens.

18 *SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The CHR, in
19 consultation, coordination and collaboration with the Supreme Court, the
20 Department of Justice, the AFP, the PNP, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines
21 and human rights NGOs and POs duly recognized and accredited by the

1 government, shall prepare the implementing rules and regulations necessary to
2 carry out the provisions of this Act.

3 SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
4 its publication in at least two newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,

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