

1 this Organic Act, and the laws enacted by the Regional Assembly, and the Congress of the
2 Philippines.

3 **SEC. 6. *Equitable Share in the National Budget and Development Assistance.*** – The
4 national government shall provide the autonomous region with a proportionate and equitable
5 share in the annual national budget and foreign assisted projects based on the defined programs,
6 functions and performance goals of CAR in addition to other financial assistance, support and
7 subsidies to accelerate its development. The Commission on Audit (COA) may require a pre-
8 audit whenever it finds that the internal controls set up in the Region are inadequate. It shall
9 likewise conduct seminars in the communities concerned explaining the benefits and proper
10 use of the National Tax Allotments.

11 **SEC. 7. *Self-governance.*** – In the exercise of their right to genuine autonomy and
12 meaningful self-governance, inhabitants of the CAR are free to pursue their political, economic,
13 social and cultural development within the framework of national sovereignty and in
14 accordance with the Constitution.

15 **SEC. 8. *Democratic Political System.*** – The Regional Government is a democratic
16 political system that allows the people to participate in political processes.

17 **SEC. 9. *Prior and Preferential Right.*** – The inhabitants of the CAR shall have prior
18 and preferential right to the natural, material, and fiscal resources of the CAR in accordance
19 with the Constitution and other pertinent laws.

20 **SEC. 10. *Fundamental Rights and Duties of People.*** – The fundamental rights and
21 duties of the people in the CAR are those defined in the Constitution, this Organic Act, and
22 other pertinent laws.

23 **SEC. 11. *Rights to Initiatives, Consultations, Referenda and Plebiscites.*** – The rights
24 of the people of the CAR to initiate measures for the passage, amendment or repeal of regional
25 or local legislation, to be consulted on matters that affect their welfare; to call for a referendum
26 on important issues affecting their lives; and, to recall regional or local officials as provided by
27 Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991,
28 are hereby recognized without prejudice to the other rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

1 **SEC. 12. *Accountability of Public Officers.*** – Public office is a public trust. Public
2 officers and employees shall at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost
3 responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest
4 lives.

5 **SEC. 13. *Upholding Human Rights.*** – The Regional Government shall take measures
6 to prevent torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment, illegal detention, and extra-
7 judicial killings.

8 **SEC. 14. *Establishment of Peace Zones.*** – The Regional Government adheres to the
9 policy of peace and shall establish peace zones within the region when applicable.

10 **SEC. 15. *Devolution of Powers.*** – The Regional Government shall adopt a policy on
11 local autonomy whereby regional powers shall be devolved to local government units (LGUs)
12 particularly in areas of education, health, human resources, science and technology, and people
13 empowerment. Until a law implementing this provision is enacted by the Regional Assembly,
14 the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended shall continue to apply to
15 all provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangay within CAR.

16 The regional assembly shall not pass any law to diminish, lessen or reduce the powers,
17 functions, and shares in the National Tax Allotment of the said LGUS as provided for by the
18 Local Government Code of 1991, as amended.

19 **SEC. 16. *Sustainable Use and Management of Resources.*** – The Regional Government
20 shall share with the national government in the exploration, development and utilization of its
21 natural resources, conservation, and protection of natural resources by promoting the
22 sustainable use and management thereof and shall adopt environmentally sound and appropriate
23 technology in the management of natural resources. The use of renewable energy for the power
24 needs of the inhabitants of the CAR and the conduct of business and commerce thereat shall be
25 promoted.

26 **SEC. 17. *Community Responsive Education.*** – The Regional Government shall
27 integrate in the educational system a subject that responds to the needs of the Cordillera

1 communities, respects and promotes Cordilleran knowledge, core values, systems, institutions,
2 culture, history and practice, encourage the use of languages and methods of education, and
3 promote science and appropriate technology and methodologies that encourage creative and
4 critical thinking of the Cordilleran.

5 **SEC. 18. *Protection and Empowerment.*** – The Regional Government shall formulate
6 plans and programs for the empowerment of the youth and guarantee their effective
7 participation and representation in all aspects of public affairs. Laws shall be enacted, and
8 measures adopted to protect women and children against all forms of neglect, cruelty, and
9 exploitation which are harmful to their moral, physical, or mental health, in accordance with
10 the provision of the Constitution and other pertinent laws.

11 **SEC. 19. *Regional Arrangements.*** – The Regional Government shall pursue a policy
12 of interregional development planning, coordination, and mutual cooperation in order to
13 promote sustainable development as well as protect and conserve resources.

14 **SEC. 20. *Equal Access and Non-discrimination.*** – The Regional Government shall
15 ensure equal access by inhabitants of the CAR to resources, employment opportunities and
16 services regardless of ethnic origin, gender, language, political conviction, economic, and social
17 status or religious belief.

18 **SEC. 21. *Social Justice.*** – The Regional Government shall endeavour to minimize
19 social, economic and political inequalities within the region by providing, maintaining and
20 ensuring the equitable delivery of basic services, and creating economic opportunities based
21 on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

22 **SEC. 22. *Foreign Investments.*** – The Regional Government shall provide incentives
23 to investors, corporations, and other businesses, in accordance with the Constitution, this Act,
24 Republic Act No. 11534 otherwise known as the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for
25 Enterprises (CREATE) Act, and other pertinent laws.

26 **SEC. 23. *Customary Laws.*** – Existing customary laws on personal, family and property
27 relations, when applicable, shall be respected.

1 **ARTICLE IV**

2 **THE CORDILLERA AUTONOMOUS REGION**

3 **A. Powers and Functions**

4 **SEC. 24. Powers and Functions.** – The Regional Government shall exercise powers
5 and functions necessary for the proper governance and development of all provinces, cities,
6 municipalities, and barangays within the autonomous region consistent with the declared
7 constitutional policy on local autonomy and decentralization: *Provided*, That nothing in this
8 Act shall be construed as to authorize the diminution of the powers and functions already
9 enjoyed by LGUs.

10 **SEC. 25. Devolved Powers.** – The Cordillera Autonomous Region is a corporate entity
11 with jurisdiction in all matters devolved to it by this Organic Act as herein enumerated in
12 accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and other pertinent laws:

13 (a) Administrative organization:

14 (1) Declaration of holidays;

15 (2) Public administration and bureaucracy for the region; and

16 (3) Identification, generation, and mobilization of international human resources for
17 capacity-building and other activities involving the same within the region.

18
19 (b) Creation of sources of revenues:

20 (1) Authority to regulate power generation, transmission and distribution operating
21 exclusively in the autonomous region, in coordination with appropriate national
22 government agencies; and

23 (2) Imposition of appropriate and reasonable taxes except those which are
24 already taxed by the national government, and LGUs;

25
26 (c) Ancestral domain and natural resources:

27 (1) Protection of the ancestral domain and ancestral lands of indigenous cultural
28 communities (ICCs) consistent with Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the
29 “Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997”.

1 (2) Declaration of nature reserves and aquatic parks, forests, watershed reservations,
2 and other protected areas in the autonomous region.

3 (3) Authority, power, and right to the control and supervision over the exploration,
4 utilization, development, and protection of the lands, forests, water, minerals and other
5 natural resources, within the autonomous region in accordance with the provisions of
6 the Constitution, pertinent provisions of this Organic Act, and other pertinent laws.

7 (4) Regulation of small-scale mining.

8 (d) Urban and rural planning development:

9 (1) Adoption and implementation of a comprehensive land use program;

10 (2) Land management, land distribution, and agricultural land use reclassification; and

11 (3) Authority to conduct cadastral survey in coordination with the Department of
12 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR): *Provided*, that sub-sections 4a, 4b and 4c
13 shall be exercised in coordination with LGUs within the CAR, DENR and other
14 appropriate national government agencies.

15 (e) Economic, social and tourism development:

16 (1) Establishment of transportation and communication facilities;

17 (2) Promotion of tourism within the autonomous region; and

18 (3) Regulation of games and amusement operations within CAR.

19
20 (f) Educational policies in skills training, research and scholarships

21
22 (g) Preservation and development of the cultural heritage, establishment of its own libraries
23 and museums, and declaration of historical and cultural sites, in coordination with the
24 National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA); and

25
26 (h) Such other matters for the promotion of the general welfare of its inhabitants. The
27 Regional Government, in the exercise of its devolved powers as herein defined, shall
28 coordinate with the appropriate national government agencies.

29 **B. Intergovernmental Relations**

1 SEC. 26. *General Supervision.* – Consistent with the principle of local autonomy, the
2 President shall exercise general supervision over the Regional Government to ensure that laws
3 are faithfully executed.

4 SEC. 27. *Regional Line Agencies.* – Regional line agencies shall continue to exist
5 without diminution of their mandated authority. Regional line agency officials and employees
6 shall continue to be paid by the national government. There shall be no diminution of ~~their~~
7 compensation and other benefits due the officials and employees of line agencies. Existing
8 assets and properties of the regional line agencies and offices shall remain under their custody
9 and accountability.

10 SEC. 28. *Tenure of Civil Service Employees.* – Except for just cause and after due
11 process, officials and employees of the regional line agencies and offices in the region shall not
12 be laid off, dismissed or removed as a result of any reorganization attendant to the establishment
13 of the CAR.

14 SEC. 29. *Priority in Recruitment, Selection and Placement.* – Officials and employees
15 of the Regional Government and the regional line agencies in the autonomous region shall be
16 hired in accordance with appropriate civil service rules and regulations, but priority shall be
17 accorded to qualified inhabitants of the CAR.

18 SEC. 30. *Appointment of CAR employees.* – The regional governor shall fill up
19 second level positions in the Regional Government from among at least three (3)
20 recommendees of the Regional Human Resource Merit Promotion and Selection board that
21 shall be duly constituted.

22 SEC. 31. *Management of ODA Funds.* – The autonomous region may avail of Official
23 Development Assistance (ODA) and other foreign financial grants or donations and shall
24 undertake these projects through the regional line agencies, government-owned and controlled
25 corporations (GOCCs), state colleges and universities, LGUs or whichever is deemed
26 appropriate, subject to review and approval of the national government in accordance with
27 Republic Act No. 8182, otherwise known as the Official Development Assistance Act of 1996
28 and the prior clearance and approval by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

1 SEC. 32. *Government Owned and Controlled Corporations.* – Government owned and
2 Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) such as the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS),
3 the Social Security System (SSS), the *Pagtutulungan-Ikaw, Bangko Industriya't Gobyerno*
4 (Pag-IBIG), PhilHealth and other GOCCs shall continue to be governed by their respective
5 charters and other pertinent laws.

6 SEC. 33. *Autonomy of Local Government Units.* – All LGUs within the CAR shall
7 continue to be independent from each other, shall have the same set of local officials and
8 employees, shall enjoy autonomy and continue to exercise the powers granted them under the
9 Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and other existing laws. The Local Government
10 Code of 1991 shall apply to all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays in the CAR until
11 the Regional Assembly shall enact a regional Local Government Code. Nothing herein provided
12 shall be construed in any manner as to diminish the powers and functions as well as benefits
13 and privileges already being enjoyed by the LGUs.

14 SEC. 34. *Supervision of Local Government Units through the Regional Governor.* –
15 Consistent with the basic policy on local autonomy, the President, through the Regional
16 Governor shall exercise supervision over LGUs in the CAR to ensure that their acts are within
17 the scope of their prescribed powers and functions.

18 SEC. 35. *Revenues and Taxes Accruing to Local Government Units.* – Revenues,
19 taxes, fees and charges generated by the LGUs and the Regional Government from their
20 respective local tax ordinances shall exclusively accrue to them.

21 SEC. 36. *Just Share in National Taxes.* – The LGUs in the CAR including the Regional
22 Government, shall have a just share in the national taxes and applicable revenues which shall
23 be automatically released to them.

24 SEC. 37. *Equitable Share in the Utilization of Resources.* – The LGUs in the CAR,
25 including the Regional Government shall be entitled to an equitable share in the proceeds of
26 the utilization and development of the national wealth within their respective areas, in the
27 manner provided for by law and this Organic Act.

1 SEC. 43. *Disqualifications.* – In addition to the disqualifications provided for under
2 Section 40 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, candidates for Regional
3 Governor, Vice-Governor and members of the Regional Assembly must not be related to the
4 incumbent elected regional officials within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity.

5 SEC. 44. *Manner of Election.* – The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor, who shall
6 belong to the same political party, shall be elected at large by direct vote of the registered voters
7 of the CAR. A vote for the Regional Governor shall be counted as a vote for the Regional
8 Vice-Governor.

9 (a) Each province and city shall elect their own representatives to the Regional
10 Assembly according to the following seats allocated to them:

11 (1) Highly urbanized city – four (4) seats;

12 (2) Province – four (4) seats to be allocated two (2) per provincial district;

13 (3) Component city – One (1) seat

14 *Provided,* That any component city created after the effectivity of this Organic Act shall be
15 entitled to representation to the Regional Assembly as may be provided for by law.

16 (b) Unless otherwise provided for by law, the regular elections of the Regional
17 Governor, Vice Governor, and members of the Regional Assembly shall be held simultaneously
18 with the national and local elections on the second Monday of May, and every three (3) years
19 thereafter.

20 SEC. 45. *Term of Office.* – (a) The term of office of all elective regional officials elected
21 after the effectivity of this Organic Act shall be three (3) years which shall begin at noon on the
22 thirtieth day of June next following the day of election and shall end at noon of the same date
23 three (3) years thereafter. No Regional Governor, Vice-Governor, or Member of the Regional
24 Assembly shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

25 (b) Voluntary renunciation of, or removal from office for any length of time shall not
26 be considered as an interruption in the continuity of the service for the full term for which
27 officials were elected.

28 SEC. 46. *Oath of Office.* – The Regional Governor, Vice-Governor and Members of
29 the Regional Assembly on assuming office shall take the following oath or affirmation:

1 *“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my*
2 *duties as Governor/Vice-Governor/Member of the Regional Assembly of the Cordillera*
3 *autonomous region, preserve and defend the constitution of the Republic of the*
4 *Philippines and the organic act of the autonomous region of the cordillera, execute*
5 *these laws, do justice to all and consecrate myself to the service of the nation and the*
6 *cordillera autonomous region. So help me God.”*

7 **SEC. 47. Prohibitions.** – (a) The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor shall not,
8 during their tenure, engage in the practice of any profession or hold any other office or
9 employment, except as otherwise provided for in this Act.

10 (b) The spouse and other relatives by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth civil
11 degree of the Regional Governor and the Regional Vice-Governor shall not, during their tenure,
12 be appointed officers or employees of the Regional Government, except as members of their
13 confidential staff.

14 (c) No member of the Regional Assembly may hold any other office or employment in
15 the government or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including GOCCS or
16 their subsidiaries, during their term without forfeiting their seat. Neither shall any member of
17 the regional assembly be appointed to any office which has been created or the emoluments
18 whereof increased by the Regional Assembly during the term for which such member was
19 elected.

20 (d) The Regional Governor, and Regional Vice-Governor, and Members of the Regional
21 Assembly shall not personally appear as counsel before any court of justice or before the
22 Electoral Commission or quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies.

23 (e) The Regional Governor, Regional Vice-Governor, and Members of the Regional
24 Assembly shall not participate directly or indirectly in any contract with or in any franchise or
25 special privilege granted by the Regional Government or any subdivision, agency or
26 instrumentality thereof, including GOCCS or in any of their subsidiaries. They shall not
27 intervene in any matter before any office of the CAR for their pecuniary benefit or where they
28 may be called upon to act on account of their office.

29 **SEC. 48. Vacancies and Succession.** – (a) In the event that the position of the Regional
30 Governor becomes permanently vacant, the Regional Vice-Governor shall automatically
31 become the Regional Governor.

1 (b) If the position of the Regional Vice-Governor becomes permanently vacant, the
2 member of the assembly belonging to the same political party, garnering the highest percentage
3 of votes in the district represented shall become the vice-governor or in case of permanent
4 disability, the second highest shall assume said position.

5 (c) In case of a permanent vacancy in the assembly where automatic succession does
6 not apply, the Regional Governor shall appoint to the position so vacated the nominee of the
7 political party to which the member who caused the vacancy belonged at the time of such
8 members' election. If the one causing the vacancy does not belong to any political party, the
9 Regional Governor shall appoint the nominee of the majority of the members of the assembly.
10 *Provided:* That the appointee has all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications as
11 provided by this Organic Act: *Provided further,* That in both cases the appointee comes from
12 the same district.

13 (d) For purposes of this Article, a permanent vacancy arises when the incumbent elective
14 official concerned dies, voluntarily resigns, is removed from office, fills up a higher vacant
15 office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, or is otherwise permanently incapacitated to
16 exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the office.

17 **SEC. 49. *Temporary Vacancies.*** – (a) When the Regional Governor is temporarily
18 incapacitated to perform the official duties for physical or legal reasons such as leave of
19 absence, travel abroad, and suspension from office, the regional Vice Governor shall
20 automatically exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the former except
21 the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees which can only be exercised if the period
22 of temporary incapacity exceeds thirty (30) working days.

23 (b) The vacancy due to temporary incapacity shall be terminated upon the submission
24 to the Regional Assembly of a written declaration of the Regional Governor's return to carry
25 out the duties of the office. In cases where the temporary incapacity is due to legal causes, the
26 regional official concerned shall also submit necessary documents showing that said legal
27 causes no longer exist.

28 (c) When the incumbent Regional Governor is traveling within the country but outside
29 the territorial jurisdiction of the CAR for a period not exceeding three (3) consecutive days, the
30 Regional Governor may designate in writing, the officer-in-charge of the said office. Such
31 authorization shall specify the powers and functions that the regional official concerned shall
32 exercise except the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees.

1 (d) In the event, however, that the Regional Governor concerned fails or refuses to issue
2 such authorization, the Regional Vice-Governor shall have the right to assume the powers,
3 duties and functions of the said office on the fourth day of absence of the Regional Governor,
4 subject to the limitations provided for in subsection c, hereof.

5 (e) Except as provided for above, the Regional Governor shall in no case authorize any
6 regional official to assume the powers, duties and functions of the office, other than the
7 Regional Vice-Governor or the highest-ranking Member of the Regional Assembly, as the case
8 may be.

9 **SEC. 50. *Approval of Leaves of Absence.*** – Leave of absence of elective officials of the
10 CAR shall be approved as follows:

11 (a) Applications for leave of absence of regional officials, provincial governor, mayor
12 of a highly urbanized city or an independent component city shall be approved by the Regional
13 Governor or a duly authorized representative;

14 (b) Applications for leave of absence of other officials and employees other than those
15 enumerated above shall be approved by the authority designated under the Local Government
16 Code of 1991, as amended; and

17 (c) Applications for leave of the Regional Governor shall be approved by the President.

18 **SEC. 51. *Compensation.*** – (a) Unless otherwise provided for by law, the Regional
19 Governor and Regional Vice-Governor shall receive an annual salary equivalent to that of a
20 department Undersecretary and Assistant secretary, respectively, of the national government,
21 which shall not be decreased during their tenure. No increase in the salary of the Regional
22 Governor and Regional Vice-Governor shall take effect until after the expiration of the term of
23 the Regional Governor and Regional Vice-Governor approving the same.

24 (b) Unless otherwise provided for by law, the Regional Speaker shall receive an annual
25 salary equivalent to that of the Regional Governor and Members of the Regional Assembly
26 shall receive an annual salary equivalent to the salary of the Regional Vice-Governor. No
27 increase in salary provided for by law shall take effect until after the expiration of the term of
28 office of all members of the Regional Assembly approving the same.

29 (c) All regional elective officials shall not receive, during their tenure, any other
30 emoluments from the government.

1 **SEC. 57. *Administrative Support*** – The Regional Governor and the different regional
2 departments shall have sufficient administrative and support staff to efficiently and effectively
3 carry out their mandates and the purposes of the Regional Government.

4 **SEC. 58. *Mandatory Staff*** – The Regional Government shall have the following
5 mandatory staff: (1) Regional Executive Secretary, (2) Regional Accountant, (3) Regional
6 Budget Officer, (4) Regional Administrator, (5) Regional Legal Officer, (6) Regional Treasurer,
7 and (7) Regional General Services Officer. In addition thereto, the Regional Governor may,
8 subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly and availability of funds, create other offices
9 deemed necessary.

10 The Regional Executive Secretary and the heads of the various regional offices and
11 employees under the executive department shall be appointed by the Regional Governor. The
12 appointment of the heads of regional offices requires the concurrence of the majority of the
13 members of the Regional Assembly and compliance with civil service law, rules and regulations
14 and this Organic Act. The Regional Assembly shall act on said appointment within fifteen (15)
15 days from the date of submission otherwise the same shall be deemed confirmed.

16 The rank and salary grade level of the heads of the different regional departments shall
17 be equivalent to the regional directors of line agencies. They shall receive compensation,
18 allowances and other emoluments and benefits allowed by law or ordinance. With the exception
19 of the Regional Executive Secretary, the positions of the different department heads of the
20 Regional Government shall be mandatory.

21 The qualifications of regional appointive officials, their duties and functions, are as follows:

22 **(a) Regional Executive Secretary**

23 (1) The Regional Executive Secretary of the CAR must be a citizen of the
24 Philippines and a resident of the CAR, of good moral character, a holder of a college
25 degree preferably in law, administration or any other related course from a recognized
26 college or university, and must have acquired supervisory or managerial experience for
27 at least five (5) years.

1 (2) The term of office of the Regional Executive Secretary shall be co-terminus with
2 that of the appointing authority.

3 (3) The Regional Executive Secretary shall, subject to the control and supervision
4 of the Regional Governor, carry out the following functions:

5 (i) Directly assist the Regional Governor in the management of the affairs
6 pertaining to the CAR;

7 (ii) Implement directives, orders and decisions of the Regional Governor;

8 (iii) Exercise supervision and control over the various units in the Office of the
9 Regional Governor including their internal administrative requirements;

10 (iv) Exercise supervision, in behalf of the Regional Governor, over the various
11 agencies under the Office of the Regional Governor;

12 (v) Provide overall coordination in the operation of the Regional Executive Office;

13 (vi) Determine and assign matters to the appropriate units in the Office of the
14 Regional Governor;

15 (vii) Act on matters referred to the Office of the Regional Governor by the various
16 regional offices and agencies of the government;

17 (viii) Provide consultative, research, fact-finding and advisory services to the
18 Regional Governor;

19 (ix) Assist the Regional Governor in the performance of functions pertaining to
20 legislation;

21 (x) Assist the Regional Governor in the administration of special projects;

22 (xi) Take charge of matters pertaining to protocol and ceremonial functions in the
23 Regional Government;

24 (xii) Provide secretarial and clerical services for the Regional Governor and other
25 bodies;

26 (xiii) Promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives,
27 policies and functions of the Office of the Regional Governor; and

28 (xiv) Perform such other functions as the Regional Governor may direct.

29 **(b) Regional Accountant**

30 (1) The Regional Accountant must be a citizen of the Philippines and a resident of the
31 CAR, of good moral character, a certified public accountant, and must have acquired
32 experience in the treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years.

1 (2) The Regional Accountant shall take charge of both the accounting and internal audit
2 services of the CAR and shall:

3 (i) Install and maintain an internal audit system in the CAR

4 (ii) Prepare and submit financial statements to the Regional Governor and to the
5 Regional Assembly;

6 (iii) Apprise the Regional Assembly and other government officials on the
7 financial condition and operations of the CAR;

8 (iv) Certify to the availability of budgetary allotment to which expenditures and
9 obligations may be properly charged;

10 (v) Review supporting documents before preparation of vouchers to determine
11 completeness of requirements;

12 (vi) Prepare statements of cash advances, liquidation, salaries, allowances,
13 reimbursements and remittances pertaining to the CAR;

14 (vii) Prepare statements of journal vouchers and liquidation of the same and other
15 adjustments related thereto;

16 (viii) Post individual disbursements to the subsidiary ledger and index cards;

17 (ix) Maintain individual ledgers for officials and employees of the Regional
18 Government pertaining to payrolls and deductions;

19 (x) Record and keep subsidiary ledgers containing the details of purchased
20 furniture, fixtures, and equipment, and records of the disposal of the same;

21 (xi) Account for all issued requests for obligations and maintain and keep all
22 records and reports related thereto;

23 (xii) Prepare journals and the analysis of obligations and maintain and keep all
24 records and reports related thereto; and

25 (xiii) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as
26 may be provided by law or ordinance.

27 **(c) Regional Budget Officer**

28 (1) The Regional Budget Officer must be a citizen of the Philippines and a resident of
29 the CAR, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in
30 accounting, economics, public administration or any related course from a
31 recognized college or university, a Career Service Professional or a second level

1 eligible, and must have acquired at least five years experience in government
2 budgeting.

3 (2) The Regional Budget Officer shall take charge of the budget office and shall:

4 (i) Prepare forms, orders, and circulars embodying instructions on budgetary and
5 appropriation matters for the signature of the Regional Governor;

6 (ii) Review and consolidate the budget proposals of different departments and
7 offices of the Regional Government;

8 (iii) Assist the Regional Governor in the preparation of the budget and during budget
9 hearings;

10 (iv) Study and evaluate budgetary implications of proposed legislation and submit
11 comments and recommendations thereon;

12 (v) Submit periodic budgetary reports to the Department of Budget and
13 Management (DBM);

14 (vi) Coordinate with the treasurer, accountant, and the planning officer for the
15 purpose of budgeting;

16 (vii) Assist the Regional Assembly in reviewing the approved budgets of the
17 provincial and highly urbanized cities;

18 (viii) Assist the Regional Development Planning Officer in Formulating the
19 Regional Development Plan

20 (ix) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may
21 be prescribed by law or ordinance.

22 **(d) Regional Administrator**

23 (1) The Regional Administrator must be a citizen of the Philippines and an inhabitant
24 of the CAR, of good moral character, holder of a college degree preferably in law,
25 public administration or any other related course from a recognized college or
26 university and must have acquired at least five (5) years experience in management
27 and administration work.

28 (2) The term of office of the Regional Administrator shall be co-terminus with that of
29 the appointing authority.

30 (3) Subject to the control and supervision of the Regional Governor, the Regional
31 Administrator shall:

1 (i) Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the Regional
2 Governor, implement the same particularly those which have to do with the
3 management and administration-related programs and projects which the Regional
4 Governor is empowered to implement and which the Regional Assembly is
5 empowered to provide under this Organic Act;

6 (ii) Assist in the coordination of the work of all the officials of the autonomous
7 region, under the supervision, direction, and control of the Regional Governor, and
8 for this purpose, may convene the chiefs of offices and other officials of the
9 Regional Government ;

10 (iii) Establish and maintain a sound personnel program for the Regional
11 Government designed to promote career development and uphold the merit principle
12 in the local government service;

13 (iv) Conduct a continuing organizational development of the CAR with the end in
14 view of instituting effective administrative reforms;

15 (v) Be in the frontline of the delivery of administrative support services, particularly
16 those related to the situations during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural
17 disasters and calamities;

18 (vi) Recommend to the Regional Assembly and advise the Regional Governor, as
19 the case may be, on all other matters relative to the management and administration
20 of the Regional Government; and

21 (vii) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as
22 may be prescribed by law or by ordinance.

23 **(e) Regional Legal Officer**

24 (1) The Regional Legal Officer must be a citizen of the Philippines and a resident of
25 the CAR, of good moral character, a member of the Philippine Bar, and must have
26 practiced the law profession for at least five (5) years.

27 (2) The term of office of the Regional Legal Officer shall be co-terminus with that of
28 the appointing authority.

29 (3) The Regional Legal Officer shall be the chief legal counsel of the Regional
30 Government and shall take charge of the office of legal services. In addition the
31 Regional Legal Officer shall:

32 (i) Formulate measures for the consideration of the Regional Assembly and provide
33 legal assistance and support to the Regional Governor;

1 (ii) Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the Regional
2 Governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with programs
3 and projects related to legal services which the Regional Governor is empowered
4 to implement and which the Regional Assembly is empowered to provide under this
5 Organic Act;

6 (iii) Recommend measures and advise the Regional Governor on all other matters
7 related to upholding the rule of law;

8 (iv) Be in the frontline of protecting human rights and prosecuting any violations
9 thereof, particularly those which occur during and in the aftermath of man-made or
10 natural disasters or calamities;

11 (v) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may
12 be prescribed by law or ordinance.

13 (vi) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the Regional Legal Officer
14 shall:

15 (a) Represent the Regional Government in all civil actions and special
16 proceedings wherein the autonomous region or any official thereof in an
17 official capacity, is a party;

18 (b) When required by the Regional Governor, draft ordinances, contracts,
19 bonds, leases and other instruments, involving any interest of the CAR and
20 provide comments and recommendations on any instrument already drawn;

21 (c) Render a written opinion on any question of law when directed by the
22 Regional Governor;

23 (d) Investigate or cause to be investigated any official or employee of the
24 Regional Government for administrative neglect or misconduct in office
25 and recommend the appropriate action to the Regional Governor;

26 (e) Investigate or cause to be investigated any person, firm or corporation
27 holding any franchise or exercising any public privilege for failure to
28 comply with any term or condition in the grant of such franchise or privilege
29 by the Regional Government, and recommend the appropriate action to the
30 Regional Governor;

31 (f) When directed by the regional Governor, initiate and prosecute in the
32 interest of the Regional Government any civil action on any bond, lease or
33 other contract upon any breach or violation thereof; and

1 (g) Review and submit recommendations on ordinances approved and
2 executive orders issued.

3 **(f) Regional Treasurer**

4 (1) The Regional Treasurer must be a citizen of the Philippines and a resident of the
5 CAR, of good moral character, holder of a college degree preferably in commerce,
6 public administration or law from a recognized college or university, a Career Service
7 Professional or a second level eligible and must have acquired at least five (5) years
8 experience in treasury or accounting service.

9
10 (2) The Regional Treasurer shall take charge of the Treasury Office, perform the duties
11 provided for under Book II of the Local Government Code, as amended, and shall:

12 (i) Advise the Regional Governor and other Regional Government officials
13 concerned regarding the disposition of government funds, and on such other matters
14 relative to public finance;

15 (ii) Take custody of and exercise proper management of the funds of the CAR;

16 (iii) Take charge of the disbursement of all Regional Government funds and such
17 other funds the custody of which may be entrusted by law or other competent
18 authority;

19 (iv) Maintain and update the tax information system of the CAR; and

20 (v) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may
21 be prescribed by law or ordinance.

22 **(g) Regional General Services Officer**

23 (1) The Regional General Services Officer must be a citizen of the Philippines and an
24 inhabitant of the CAR, of good moral character, holder of a college degree
25 preferably on public administration, business administration and management or
26 any other related course from a recognized college or university, a Career Service
27 Professional or a second level eligible, and must have acquired at least five (5) years
28 experience in general services, including management of supply, property, solid
29 waste disposal, and general sanitation-

30 (2) The Regional General Services Officer shall take charge of the Office on General
31 Services and shall:

32 (i) Formulate measures for the consideration of the Regional Governor and provide
33 technical assistance and support in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of

1 basic services and provision of adequate facilities pursuant to the Local
2 Government Code, as amended, and this Organic Act which require general
3 services expertise and technical support services;

4 (ii) Develop plans and strategies, and upon approval thereof by the Regional
5 Governor implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the general
6 services that are supportive of the welfare of the inhabitants which the Regional
7 Governor is empowered to implement;

8 (iii) Be in the frontline of general services related activities, such as the possible or
9 imminent destruction or damage to records, supplies, properties, and structures and
10 the orderly and sanitary clearing up of waste materials or debris, particularly during
11 and in the aftermath of man-made and natural calamities and disasters;

12 (iv) Recommend and advise the Regional Governor on all matters relative to
13 general services;

14 (v) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the General Services Officer
15 shall:

16 (a) Take custody of and be accountable for all properties, real or personal, owned
17 by the Regional Government and those granted to it in the form of donation,
18 reparation, assistance, and counterpart of joint projects;

19 (b) With the approval of the Regional Governor, assign building or land space
20 to regional officials, who by law, are entitled to such space. Recommend to
21 the Regional Governor reasonable rental rates for Regional Government
22 properties, whether real or personal, which will be leased to public or private
23 entities;

24 (c) Recommend to the Regional Governor reasonable rental rates of private
25 properties which may be leased for the official use of the Regional
26 Government;

27 (d) Maintain and supervise janitorial and security services, and government
28 public buildings and other real property, whether owned or leased by the
29 Regional Government;

30 (e) Collate and disseminate information regarding prices, shipping and other
31 costs of supplies, and other items commonly used by the Regional
32 Government;

33 (f) Perform archival and record management services with respect to
34 records of offices and departments of the Regional Government;

- 1 (g) Perform all other functions pertaining to supply and property management
2 heretofore performed by the Regional Government Treasurer and enforce
3 policies on records creation, maintenance, and disposal; and
4 (h) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as
5 may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

6 SEC. 59. *Cordillera Development Council.* – There shall be a Cordillera Development
7 Council (CDC) which shall function as the main planning and advisory body of the Regional
8 Government, setting the direction of economic and social development of the CAR and through
9 which regional development efforts shall be coordinated.

10 SEC. 60. *Composition of the CDC.* – The CDC shall be composed of the Regional
11 Governor as chairperson, a Private Sector Representative as co-chairperson, the Regional
12 Director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as vice-chairperson,
13 and the following as members:

- 14 (a) All the provincial governors, the city and capital town mayors in the CAR;
15 (b) Two (2) members of the Regional Assembly to be designated by the presiding officer
16 of the Regional Speaker;
17 (c) Private sector representatives of duly accredited private sector and non-government or
18 people’s organizations, provided that their composition shall not be more than one-
19 fourth of the total membership.
20 (d) Regional heads of line agencies who are members of the NEDA Board.
21 (e) The CDC may designate special non-voting members from both the public and private
22 sectors, upon concurrence of the majority of its regular members.

23 SEC. 61. *Functions.* – The CDC shall:

- 24 (a) Coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of short- and
25 long-term Regional Development Plans and investment programs, regional physical
26 framework plans and special development plans, including the formulation of policy
27 recommendations;
28 (b) Integrate into the Regional Development Plan the approved development plans of
29 provinces and cities, line agencies, state universities and colleges, GOCCs and special
30 development authorities in the autonomous region;

- 1 (c) Review, prioritize, and endorse to the Regional Government the annual and multi-year
2 sectoral investment programs of the CAR for funding and implementation;
- 3 (d) Review and endorse to the national government the annual budgets of agency regional
4 offices, state colleges and universities and special development authorities;
- 5 (e) Promote and direct the inflow and allocation of private investments in the CAR to
6 support regional development objectives, policies, and strategies;
- 7 (f) Review and endorse national plans, programs and projects proposed for implementation
8 in the autonomous region.
- 9 (g) As required by the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC), review and endorse
10 projects of national government agencies that have impact on the region and projects of
11 LGUs in the CAR requiring national government exposure which may come in the form
12 of guarantees, national government budget appropriations or subsidies, among others.
- 13 (h) Initiate and coordinate the development, funding and implementation of regional and
14 special development projects such as those involving several agencies or LGUs.
- 15 (i) Coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of development projects undertaken by
16 government agencies, LGUs, state colleges and universities, GOCCs and special
17 development authorities in the CAR.
- 18 (j) Perform other related functions and activities as may be necessary to promote and
19 sustain the socio-economic development of the CAR.

20 SEC. 62. *Technical Support to the CDC.* – The regional office of the NEDA shall serve as
21 the secretariat and technical operations arm of the CDC.

22 SEC. 63. *Creation of Committees.* – The CDC may create appropriate technical and sectoral
23 committees to assist in its work.

24 SEC. 64. *Existing Committees.* – Existing regional coordinating committees that are
25 created by various laws and currently attached to specific agencies, and ad-hoc program or
26 project-based steering committees, such as the Development Administration Committee,
27 Economic Development Committee, Social Development Committee, Infrastructure
28 Development Committee, Watershed and Environmental Management Committee, Committee
29 on Indigenous Peoples' Concerns, Regional Land Use Committee, Regional Gender and
30 Development Committee, Regional Project Monitoring Committee, Regional Competitiveness
31 Committee, Regional Development Budget Coordinating Committee, Regional Statistical

1 Coordination Committee, and the Cordillera Geographic Information System Network, shall be
2 placed under the umbrella of the CDC. Secretariat work of these inter-agency committees shall
3 continue to be provided by their mother agency.

4 **ARTICLE VII**
5 **THE REGIONAL VICE-GOVERNOR**

6 **SEC. 65. *Functions.*** – The Regional Vice-Governor shall assist the Regional Governor
7 in the day to day operations of the Regional Government, and shall:

- 8 (a) Assume the office of the Regional Governor for the unexpired term of the latter in
9 the event of a permanent vacancy as provided for in this Organic Act;
- 10 (b) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the Regional Governor
11 in cases of temporary vacancy as provided for in this Organic Act;
- 12 (c) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions as may be prescribed by
13 law.

14 The Regional Vice-Governor may be appointed to the position of head of regional office
15 as may be created by the Regional Assembly, without the need of confirmation of the Regional
16 Assembly and the Civil Service Commission.

17 **ARTICLE VIII**
18 **THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

19 **SEC. 66. *Legislative Authority.*** – The legislative power of the Regional Government
20 in the CAR shall be vested in the Regional Assembly, except to the extent reserved by the
21 Constitution and this Organic Act on initiative and referendum. Within its territorial jurisdiction
22 and subject to the provisions of the Constitution and national laws, the Regional Assembly shall
23 have legislative powers over those functions enumerated under Section 25 hereof.

24 **SEC. 67. *Speaker of the Regional Assembly.*** – There shall be a Speaker of the Regional
25 Assembly, who shall be elected, from among the members of the Regional Assembly, on its
26 first regular session. The Regional Assembly shall promulgate its rules and regulations for the
27 conduct of its proceedings.

1 The Regional Speaker, as the political and administrative head of the Regional
2 Assembly, is responsible for the overall management of the proceedings, activities, resources,
3 facilities and employees of the Assembly. The Speaker shall:

4 (a) Prepare the legislative agenda for every regular session, establish systems and
5 procedures to ensure full deliberation and swift approval of measures included therein, and may,
6 for the purpose, avail of the assistance of the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leader, the
7 chairpersons of the standing committees and other Members of the Regional Assembly;

8 (b) Conduct regular monthly caucus of all Members of the Regional Assembly or groups
9 thereof or as often as may be necessary to discuss priority measures and to facilitate dialogue,
10 consensus and action on issues and concerns affecting the Regional Government and the
11 performance of its functions;

12 (c) Exercise general supervision over all committees and, in furtherance thereof,
13 conduct regular monthly meetings with the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of all standing
14 and special committees to set legislative targets, review performance in the attainment of
15 targets, ensure that the priority legislative measures of committees are attuned to the legislative
16 agenda of the Regional Assembly, and resolve such other issues and concerns that affect the
17 operations and performance of the committees;

18 (d) Establish, as far as practicable, an efficient information management system of the
19 secretariat utilizing among others, modern digital technology, that can:

20 (1) Facilitate access to and dissemination of data and information needed in
21 legislation inclusive of facilitating real time translation of plenary proceedings in the
22 major Philippine dialects and languages;

23 (2) Provide a simplified and comprehensive process of gathering, recording,
24 storage and retrieval of data and information relating to activities and proceedings of
25 the Regional Assembly;

26 (3) Sustain a public information program that will provide accessible, timely and
27 accurate information relating to the Regional Assembly, its Members and officers, its
28 committees and its legislative concerns inclusive of facilitating, as far as practicable,
29 broadcast coverage of plenary and committee proceedings;

30 (e) Establish an efficient and effective system to monitor and evaluate the performance
31 of legislative tasks and duties of the Regional Assembly, its Members and its committees;

1 (f) Designate a Member as temporary presiding officer after informing the Deputy
2 Speakers: *Provided*, That any such designation shall be effective for one session day only;

3 (g) Take appropriate measures as may be deemed advisable or as the Regional Assembly
4 may direct, to preserve order and decorum in the session hall, the galleries, lobbies, chambers,
5 offices, corridors, and premises of the Regional Assembly;

6 (h) Sign all acts, resolutions, memorials, writs, warrants and *subpoenae* that may be
7 issued by or upon order of the Regional Assembly;

8 (i) Perform administrative functions such as the following:

9 (1) Appoint the personnel of the Regional Assembly with authority to delegate
10 this power;

11 (2) Suspend, dismiss or impose disciplinary measures on the personnel of the
12 Regional Assembly in accordance with Civil Service rules: *Provided*, That the
13 suspension or dismissal of the Regional Secretary General and the Regional Sergeant-
14 at-Arms shall take effect only upon the concurrence of the majority of all the Members
15 of the Regional Assembly;

16 (3) Consolidate vacant positions the salaries and wages for which may be
17 increased or reduced in the process, or creation of new positions in accordance with the
18 Regional Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That the total amount involved shall not exceed
19 the total amount appropriated for the salaries and wages of the personnel of the Regional
20 Assembly;

21 (4) Implement merit-based policies and programs on human resource
22 recruitment, selection and placement, learning and development, performance
23 management and rewards and recognition to ensure that the Regional Assembly has a
24 corps of competent professionals able to provide needed legislative support services;
25 and

26 (5) Review, approve, and sign contracts entered into by the Regional Assembly,
27 and to delegate this power when necessary.

28 (j) Prepare the annual budget of the Regional Assembly;

29 (k) Prepare, in consultation with the appropriate committee of the Regional Assembly,
30 the rules and regulations governing public access to personal data and related information,
31 including statements of assets and liabilities, of Members of the Regional Assembly;

32 (l) Develop through an appropriate entity of the Regional Assembly a system for drug
33 testing of any Member, officer, or employee of the Regional Assembly, that shall be comparable

1 in scope to the system for drug testing in the executive branch of the Regional Government:
2 *Provided*, That the expenses incurred from the implementation of the system may be paid from
3 applicable accounts of the Regional Assembly for official expenses; and

4 (m) Require the submission of performance reports at the end of every regular session
5 and fiscal year from the committee chairpersons, the Regional Secretary General and the
6 Regional Sergeant-at-Arms, and such other reports as may be required from all concerned
7 officers and offices of the Regional Assembly.

8 The Regional Speaker shall be the permanent head of delegation and representative of
9 the Regional Assembly in all local or international parliamentary gatherings and organizations:
10 *Provided*, That Regional Speaker may designate any Member of the Regional Assembly to be
11 the representative of the Regional Speaker and may also determine, upon the recommendation
12 of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Minority Leader, who shall constitute the
13 Regional Assembly's delegation to any local or international conference or forum of
14 parliamentarians and legislators, and the secretariat support staff to be authorized to assist the
15 delegation.

16 SEC. 68. *Enactment of Laws and Resolutions.* – The Regional Assembly shall enact
17 ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the CAR and
18 its inhabitants as well as for the efficient and effective operation of the Regional Government.

19 SEC. 69. *Creation, Division, Merger and Abolition of Local Government Units.* – The
20 Regional Assembly may, by law, create, divide, merge or abolish municipalities or barangays
21 subject to the approval by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite in the political units directly
22 affected. The municipalities or barangays created, divided, or merged shall be entitled to their
23 appropriate share in the national taxes.

24 SEC. 70. *Administrative Support.* – The Regional Assembly shall have an
25 administrative and support staff. Each member shall have at least three (3) confidential
26 Legislative Assistants whose qualifications, rank and salary grade level shall be equivalent to
27 regional executive assistants. Their term of service shall be co-terminus with the appointing
28 officer.

1 **SEC. 71. *Regular and Special Sessions.*** – The Regional Assembly shall start its regular
2 session on the first Monday of July, and by resolution fix the day, time, and place of its regular
3 sessions, which shall be held at least once a week. However, the Regional Assembly may be
4 called to a special session by the Regional Speaker or the Regional Governor whenever
5 necessary and a notice of meeting shall be sent to the member’s place of residence at least
6 twenty-four (24) hours before the special session is held. Unless otherwise concurred in by two-
7 thirds (2/3) votes of the members, there being a quorum, no other matters may be considered at
8 a special session except those stated in the notice. The Regional Assembly may invite the
9 President and other government officials to address it.

10 **SEC. 72. *Sessions and Quorum.*** – A majority of all the members of the Regional
11 Assembly shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day
12 to day and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner, and under such
13 penalties as the Assembly may provide in its rules.

14 On the first regular session following the election of its members, and within ninety (90)
15 days thereafter, the Regional Assembly shall adopt or update its rules of proceedings which
16 shall include, the organization of the Regional Assembly and the election of its officers, creation
17 of standing committees, the time, place and manner of convening its regular and special
18 sessions, the conduct and discipline of its members, the conduct and discipline of every person
19 present during its session, the preparation and publication of its journal, the determination of
20 quorum, and the necessary votes to pass any measure, and recall proceedings in accordance
21 with the Local Government Code, as amended.

22 **SEC. 73. *Law.*** – (a) Every bill shall embrace only one (1) subject which shall be expressed
23 in the title thereof.

24 (b) No bill shall become a law unless it has passed three (3) readings on separate days, and
25 printed copies thereof in its final form have been distributed to the members three (3) days
26 before its passage, except when the Regional Governor certifies to the necessity of its
27 immediate enactment to meet a public calamity or emergency affecting the region, or the
28 component provinces, cities, municipalities or barangays.

29 (c) On the third reading of a bill, no amendment thereto shall be allowed, and the vote
30 thereon shall be taken immediately thereafter, and the yeas and nays entered in the Journal.

1 (d) Every bill passed by the Regional Assembly shall, before it becomes a law, be presented
2 to the Regional Governor. If the Regional Governor approves the same, the Regional
3 Governor shall sign it, otherwise, the Regional Governor shall veto it and return the same
4 to the Regional Assembly expressing in a written message the objections thereto. The
5 Regional Governor shall communicate the veto on any bill to the Regional Assembly within
6 ten (10) days from receipt thereof, otherwise, it shall become a law as if it was duly
7 approved.

8 (e) Upon receipt of the veto, the Regional Assembly shall enter the objections in its journal
9 and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of all the
10 members of the Regional Assembly shall agree to pass the bill, it shall become a law.

11 (f) The Regional Governor shall have the power to veto any particular item or items in an
12 appropriation or revenue, but the veto shall not affect the item or items to which the
13 Regional Governor does not object.

14 **SEC. 74. *People's Question Hour.*** – There shall be a people's question Hour at least once
15 a month or as often as the rules of the Regional Assembly may provide, which shall be included
16 in the Order of Business, and during which any Member of the cabinet may, with the consent
17 of the Regional Governor, or upon the request of the Regional Assembly, appear and answer
18 questions and interpellations by Members of the Assembly on any matter pertaining to the
19 Cabinet Member's department.

20 The Regional Assembly or any of its committees may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation
21 in accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights and dignity of persons
22 appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected.

23 **SEC. 75. *Immunity from Suit.*** – No Member shall be questioned or be held liable in any
24 other place for any speech or debate in the Regional Assembly or in any committee thereof.

25 **SEC. 76. *Appropriations Bill.*** – The Regional Assembly shall pass an appropriations bill
26 for the ensuing year before the end of each year, based on the budget of expenditures and
27 sources of funds submitted to it by the Regional Governor.

28 (a) No provision or enactment shall be embraced in the regional appropriations bill, unless
29 it relates specifically to some particular appropriations therein. Any such provision or
30 enactment shall be limited in its operation to the appropriation to which it relates.

1 (b) The procedure in approving appropriations for the Regional Assembly shall strictly
2 follow the same procedure for approving appropriations for the regional executive
3 department.

4 (c) A special appropriations bill shall specify the purpose for which it is intended, and shall
5 be supported by funds actually available as certified by the Regional Treasurer or to be
6 raised by a corresponding revenue proposal therein.

7 (d) No law shall be passed authorizing any transfer of appropriations.

8 (e) The Regional Assembly may not increase the appropriations recommended by the
9 Regional Governor for the operation of the Regional Government as specified in the
10 budget. The form, content and manner of preparation of the budget shall be prescribed
11 by regional law: *Provided, however*, That pending the enactment of such a regional law,
12 the budgeting process of the Regional Government shall be governed by existing
13 national laws and rules and regulations prescribed by the DBM.

14 **SEC. 77. *Expenditure of Public Funds.*** – No money shall be paid out of the regional
15 treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by regional law.

16 (a) No money or property shall be appropriated, applied, paid or used, directly or indirectly,
17 for the use, benefit or support, of any sect, church, denomination, sectarian institution,
18 or system of religion or for the use, benefit or support of any priest, preacher, minister
19 or other religious teacher or dignitary as such, except when such priest, preacher,
20 minister or dignitary is assigned to the regional police or government orphanage and
21 rehabilitation centers or similar institutions.

22 (b) All money collected on any regional tax levied for a special purpose shall be treated as
23 a special fund and paid out for such purpose only. If the purpose for which a special
24 fund was created has been fulfilled or abandoned, the balance, if any, shall be transferred
25 to the general fund of the Regional Government.

26 **SEC. 78. *Certified True Copies of Law.*** – The Regional Assembly shall, within ten (10)
27 working days from approval thereof, submit to the President and to both Houses of Congress a
28 certified true copy of all laws and resolutions it passed.

29 **SEC. 79. *Creation of Offices.*** – The Regional Assembly may create such other offices and
30 positions as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Regional Government subject to
31 availability of funds.

1 (b) The national government shall consult and coordinate with the autonomous Regional
2 Government before programs and projects are undertaken in the CAR.

3 SEC. 84. *Cordillera Development Plan.* – The Regional Government through the CDC
4 shall formulate its development plans taking into consideration the unique needs and aspirations
5 of the CAR, consistent with national development goals. The Development Plan shall include
6 the promotion of growth and full employment, human development, and address social and
7 economic inequities that have resulted from decades of neglect, historical injustice, poverty and
8 inequality.

9 SEC. 85. *Control and Supervision over Natural Resources.* – The Regional Government
10 shall have control and supervision over natural resources in accordance with the Constitution,
11 this Organic Act, and other pertinent laws.

12 SEC. 86. *Preferential Rights of the Inhabitants of the CAR Over the Utilization and*
13 *Development of Its Natural Resources.* – The exploration, development, utilization, and
14 enjoyment of natural resources shall be allowed to citizens of the Philippines and to private
15 enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations with at
16 least sixty percent (60%) of their capital investment or capital stocks directly controlled or
17 owned by Filipinos: *Provided,* That priority shall be given to inhabitants of the CAR in the
18 implementation of programs, projects, and activities related to these natural resources in the
19 region and shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution, this Organic Act, and other
20 pertinent laws.

21 SEC. 87. *Comprehensive Framework for Sustainable Development.* – The Regional
22 Government shall develop a comprehensive framework for sustainable development through
23 the proper conservation, utilization, and development of natural resources. Such framework
24 shall guide the Regional Government in adopting programs, policies, and mechanisms that
25 focus on the protection of the environment, and reduction of vulnerability from climate change.

26 SEC. 88. *Development of Lands with a Slope of 18% and Above.* – The Regional
27 Government in partnership with the communities, especially the indigenous peoples (IPs) or
28 indigenous cultural communities (ICCs), and their government units, and support of the national
29 government shall adopt measures for the development of communities occupying lands with a

1 slope of eighteen percent (18%) or over, by providing the necessary infrastructure, financial
2 and technical support.

3 **SEC. 89. *Transportation and Communications System.*** – The Regional Government shall,
4 in coordination with the national government, establish a transportation and communications
5 system interconnecting the various areas of the CAR with each other and to other regions
6 adjacent to the CAR. Likewise, the Regional Government in close coordination with component
7 LGUs shall plan, construct, modernize and maintain rural and urban infrastructure facilities and
8 utilities, including alternative transport systems within critical environments.

9 **SEC. 90. *Agrarian Reform.*** – Subject to ecological considerations, the Regional
10 Government shall adopt and implement a comprehensive rural agrarian reform program, as well
11 as an urban development program consistent with the provision of the Constitution and national
12 laws and policies to ensure the just and sustainable utilization of land within its jurisdiction.

13 **SEC. 91. *Environmental Protection.*** – The Regional Government shall develop standards
14 pertaining to the protection, conservation, and enhancement, of the environment and natural
15 resources, appropriate to the socio- cultural and environmental uniqueness of the Cordillera.

16 **SEC. 92. *Transfer of Existing Nature Reserves and Protected Areas.*** – The management
17 and protection of nature reserves and aquatic parks, forests, watershed reservations, and other
18 protected areas in the Autonomous Region that have already been defined by and under the
19 authority of the national government shall be transferred to the Regional Government.

20 The Regional Transition Committee composed of the Regional Governor, Department of
21 Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples,
22 representatives of IPs and ICCs affected, as well as other relevant government agencies shall
23 cause the process of transferring these areas including the conduct of surveys of all affected
24 areas and the planning and transition for each and every protected area. Such process shall be
25 completed within a period not exceeding two (2) years.

26 **SEC. 93. *Renewable and other Energy Resources and Extractive Industries.*** – Policies on
27 renewable and other energy resources and extractive industries shall be drawn up by the

1 Regional Assembly in accordance with its Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan, as
2 well as its over-all medium-term and long-term Regional Development Plan.

3 **SEC. 94. *Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements.*** – The Regional Governor shall
4 initiate and recommend to the President the applications for financial and technical assistance
5 agreements covering mineral resources within the region

6 **SEC. 95. *Participation in National Development Planning.*** – To ensure that the Regional
7 Development Plans are reflected in the national development plans, the Regional Government
8 shall participate in national development planning. The Regional Governor shall be a member
9 of the NEDA Board.

10 **ARTICLE X**

11 **SOURCES OF REVENUES AND OTHER FISCAL MATTERS**

12 **SEC. 96. *Share from the National Revenues.*** – To conserve, protect and develop the
13 national patrimony and heritage located in the CAR, and devolved to the region by this Organic
14 Act, and to fund its operations, the Regional Government shall have a share of the national
15 revenues, in addition to existing shares already being received by the LGUs and regional line agencies,
16 which include the following:

17 (a) *Two and one half percent (2.5%).* - The Regional Government shall have a share in the national
18 taxes equivalent to two and one half percent (2.5%) based on the collection of the third fiscal
19 year preceding the current fiscal year. Eighty percent (80%) of such share shall be appropriated
20 in the annual regional budget for development projects.

21 (b) *Forty percent Share of the National Wealth Tax.* - The Regional Government shall have
22 a separate forty percent (40%) share of the gross collections in the preceding fiscal year
23 from mining taxes, royalties, environmental services, forestry and fishery charges,
24 energy production charges, and such other taxes, fees and charges, including related
25 surcharges, interests and fines derived from the utilization and development of the
26 national wealth within its territorial jurisdiction: *Provided,* That the share in national
27 wealth shall be used for the preservation and further development of the environment.

1 The Regional Government shall have a share of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the
2 gross sales or receipts derived from the utilization and development of the national wealth
3 within their territorial jurisdiction. This provision shall be applicable to all corporations,
4 partnership, individuals and other entities including government agencies and GOCCs engaged
5 in the utilization and development of the national wealth within the CAR irrespective of existing
6 contrary laws, rules and regulations of national application.

7 The share in the preceding paragraph shall be distributed in the following manner:

8 (a) Province/Highly Urbanized City – Twenty percent (20%)

9 (b) Component City/Municipality – Forty percent (40%)

10 (c) Barangay – Thirty percent (30%)

11 (d) Region – Ten percent (10%)

12 (c) *Two percent share out of the Economic Zones Tax.* - The Regional Government shall have
13 a separate two percent (2%) share out of the five percent (5%) final tax on gross income
14 earned or equivalent to forty percent (40%) of total tax paid by businesses within the
15 economic zones in the CAR, in addition to the existing shares of the local government
16 units of two percent (2%).

17 (d) *Twenty percent (20%) Share of Excess in Value Added Tax.* - The CAR shall have a
18 separate twenty percent (20%) share of the excess of value added tax (VAT) collections
19 from the immediately preceding year within the territorial jurisdiction of the
20 autonomous region. The fund shall be used to support cottage industry programs.

21 The LGUs shall have a separate twenty percent (20%) share of the excess in VAT
22 collections from the immediately preceding year.

23 (e) *Fifteen percent Share of Total Excise Tax.* - In addition to the existing shares of the
24 LGUs, the CAR shall have a separate fifteen percent (15%) share of the total excise
25 taxes collected within the territorial jurisdiction of the CAR on all products subject to
26 excise tax for the second calendar year preceding the year of distribution-

27 The LGUs shall have a separate fifteen percent (15%) share from the total excise tax
28 collection on locally manufactured virginia-type cigarettes for the second year preceding the
29 year of distribution.

1 (f) *Fifteen percent Share of Incremental Excise Tax in Burley and Native Tobacco*
2 *Products.* The Regional Government shall have a separate fifteen percent (15%) share
3 of the excise tax ~~collected~~ on burley and native tobacco products collected within the
4 CAR.

5 The LGUs shall have a separate fifteen percent (15%) share of the excise tax collected on
6 burley and native tobacco products.

7 (g) *Forty percent Share of Renewable and Other Energy Tax.* The Regional Government
8 shall have a separate forty percent (40%) share of the special privilege tax on renewable
9 and other energy resources developed for the maintenance of watersheds and social and
10 economic development of the upstream host communities.

11 The LGU's share from the renewable and other energy resources tax shall be based on the
12 computation provided under the Local Government Code, as amended.

13 (h) Shares in future tax impositions by the national government.

14 **SEC. 97. *Downstream Benefits.*** – The CAR shall be entitled to one and one-half percent
15 (1.5%) of the gross receipts from the utilization of national wealth sourced or extracted from
16 the CAR by persons, individual or juridical entities operating outside the territorial jurisdiction
17 of the CAR.

18 **SEC. 98. *Sources of Regional Government Revenues.*** – The CAR shall be entitled to
19 the following sources of revenues:

20 (a) Fees and charges imposed by the Regional Government;

21 (b) Taxes, fees, or charges for the registration of motor vehicles and for the
22 issuances of all kinds of licenses or permit for the driving thereof, except
23 tricycles which shall be registered with the city or municipality within whose
24 territorial boundaries they are operating;

25 (c) Shares and revenue generated from the operations of public utilities within
26 the CAR;

27 (d) Appropriations, shares in the internal revenue taxes, block grants, and other

1 budgetary allocations coming from the national government, and
2 (e) Block grants derived from economic agreements or conventions entered into
3 or authorized by the Regional Assembly, donations, endowments, foreign
4 assistance, and other forms of aid, subject to the pertinent provisions of the
5 Constitution:

6 *Provided*, That the taxing power of the Regional Government shall not extend to
7 the following:

- 8 (a) Income tax, except when levied on banks and other financial institutions;
9 (b) Customs duties, tonnage dues, and all other kinds of customs fees, charges, and
10 dues;
11 (c) Taxes, fees, or charges and other impositions upon goods carried into or out of,
12 or passing through the territorial jurisdiction of the provinces, cities,
13 municipalities, or barangays in the CAR in the guise of tolls for bridges or
14 otherwise, or other taxes, fees, or charges in any form whatsoever upon such goods
15 or merchandise, except tolls on bridges or roads constructed and maintained by the
16 Regional Government or its constituent provinces, cities, municipalities, or
17 barangays concerned;
18 (d) Taxes, fees, or charges on agricultural and aquatic products when sold by
19 marginal farmers or fisherfolk;
20 (e) Taxes on business enterprises certified by the Board of Investments or by
21 the Regional Assembly as registered business enterprises;
22 (f) Excise taxes on articles enumerated under the national internal revenue code of
23 1997, as amended, and taxes, fees, or charges on petroleum products;
24 (g) Percentage or value-added tax on sales, barter, or exchanges or similar
25 transactions on goods or services except as otherwise provided by national law;
26 (h) Taxes on the gross receipts of transportation contractors and persons engaged
27 in the transportation of passengers or freight by hire and common carriers;
28 (i) Taxes on premiums paid by way of reinsurance or retrocession;
29 (j) Taxes, fees, or other charges on Philippine products actually exported, except
30 as otherwise provided by law enacted by the Congress of the Philippines;
31 (k) Taxes, fees, or charges on countryside and barangay business enterprises and
32 cooperatives duly registered under Republic Act No. 6810, otherwise known as the
33 "Magna Carta for Countryside and Barangay Business Enterprises," and Republic
34 Act No. 6938, otherwise known as the "Cooperative Code of the Philippines," as
35

1 amended; and

2 (I) Taxes, fees, or charges of any kind on the national government, its agencies and
3 instrumentalities, and LGUs except on GOCCs or entities that are primarily
4 organized to do business.

5 SEC. 99. *Power of Taxation.* – The CAR shall have the power to create its own
6 sources of revenues and to levy fees, charges and taxes subject to the concurrence of
7 the Regional Assembly, and such guidelines and limitations mandated under the
8 Constitution and this Act, consistent with the basic policy of local autonomy. It
9 shall likewise have the power to grant incentives or exemption on fees and charges
10 which it is empowered to impose under this Act. The LGUs within the territorial
11 jurisdiction of CAR shall continue to levy, impose, and collect taxes and fees as
12 provided under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended.

13 SEC. 100. *Payment of Taxes by Corporations, Partnerships or Firms.* – Corporations,
14 partnerships, or firms directly engaged in business in the CAR shall pay their
15 corresponding taxes, fees, and charges in the province or city where the
16 corporation, partnership, or firm is doing business. Corporations, partnerships,
17 or firms whose central, main or head offices are located outside the CAR but are doing
18 business within its territorial jurisdiction, shall pay the ~~income~~ taxes for income
19 derived from their business operations in the CAR to the city or municipality where
20 their branch office is located or WHERE THEIR business operations or activities are
21 conducted.

22 SEC. 101. *Appropriations from the National Government.* – The national government
23 shall continue to provide the necessary funds for the regular operations and programs of
24 devolved line agencies in the region to be prepared by the Cordillera Autonomous Region and
25 incorporated under the General Appropriations Act including the mandatory organizational
26 structure and positions of the Cordillera Autonomous Region charged against the 2.5% share
27 of the CAR as provided for under Section 96 (A).

28 SEC. 102. *Donations to the Regional Government.* – All grants, bequests,
29 endowments, donations and contributions made to and used actually, directly
30

1 and exclusively by the CAR, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall
2 be considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of computing
3 the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National
4 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.”

5
6 SEC. 103. *Trade Agreements.* – The Regional Governor may, in accordance with the
7 provisions of the Constitution and national laws, and upon the recommendation of the CDC
8 enter into agreements or trade compacts and contract loans subject to the ratification of the
9 Regional Assembly to generate grants and foreign loans for development of the region.

10 The Regional Government shall respect and adhere to all international treaties and
11 agreements entered into and are binding upon the national government.

12 SEC. 104. *Limitations on Contracting of Loans.* – The Regional Governor may contract
13 loans only in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and national laws and subject
14 to the approval of the Regional Assembly.

15 SEC. 105. *Banks and other Financial Institutions.* – The CAR shall encourage the
16 establishment of banks and other financial institutions and their branches to facilitate the
17 accumulation of capital and investment and the delivery of credit assistance to business in the
18 region.

19 **ARTICLE XI**

20 **AGRICULTURE, AGRARIAN REFORM,**

21 **TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND COOPERATIVE**

22 SEC. 106. *Agrarian Reform and Sustainable Agricultural and Fisheries*
23 *Development.* – Consistent with applicable laws, the Regional Government shall, as a basic
24 policy, promote agrarian reform and sustainable agricultural development within the principles
25 of social equity and poverty alleviation, food security and food sufficiency, global
26 competitiveness, fair trade, rational use of resources.

27 (a) The Regional Government shall ensure that basic agricultural support services and
28 infrastructure are accessible to small and marginalized farmers and fisher folks. It

1 shall likewise promote agribusiness and full employment based on a sound
2 agricultural development and agrarian reform.

3 (b) The Regional Government shall put special emphasis on production towards self-
4 sufficiency of staple food commodities and shall at all times guarantee the
5 availability, accessibility, and affordability of safe food commodities.

6 (c) The Regional Government shall work on the improvement of the quality and value
7 of raw and processed agri-based products as a means to enhance competitiveness of
8 the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the domestic and global markets.

9 (d) The Regional Government shall formulate and implement measures to promote
10 indigenous concepts of farming and protect the farmers from unfair trade practices
11 and unfair competition.

12 (e) The Regional Government shall ensure the equitable and rational distribution of
13 public resources and investments in order to obtain the optimum returns on
14 investments and to benefit a greater number of constituents.

15 (f) The Regional Government shall always consider the limited carrying capacity of
16 the CAR's natural and agricultural resources in the development of agricultural and
17 fisheries programs and interventions.

18 **SEC. 107. *Development of Water Resources.*** – The Regional Government shall
19 prioritize the conservation, protection, testing, utilization and development of water resources
20 for agriculture, fisheries development, domestic water supply and power development. It shall
21 enact appropriate legislation which shall enhance, develop, conserve, and protect natural fishery
22 resources especially on species endemic to the CAR.

23 **SEC. 108. *Promoting the Rights of Fisher Folks.*** – The Regional Government shall
24 recognize, promote, and protect the rights and welfare of fisher folks, their associations and
25 cooperatives. The provinces and cities concerned shall provide support to subsistence fisher
26 folk through adequate funds, appropriate technology and research, marketing assistance, and
27 other support services like fishery processing facilities and access to credit.

28 **SEC. 109. *Agriculture Production.*** – The Regional Government shall pursue the
29 following strategies to develop and increase agricultural productivity.

30 (a) Pursue multidisciplinary research, development and extension activities to produce and
31 promote technologies and invent machinery and facilities that will be used to improve

1 productivity and product quality, reduce cost of production, enhance value-addition and
2 improve processing, and enhance abilities to protect the environment and agricultural
3 resources;

4 (b) Initiate, encourage and give the highest priority support to small and medium
5 agribusiness enterprises and industries with linkages to agriculture. It shall ensure the
6 allocation of adequate public investments to establish adequate support-agricultural
7 infrastructure and facilities to sustain such ventures;

8 (c) Formulate and implement product standards and regulatory rules that will ensure the
9 production, processing, distribution and marketing of safe and globally-competitive
10 products, and simultaneously promote environmental conservation; and

11 (d) Ensure that all sectors involved in the production, processing, and marketing of food
12 and non-food products shall strictly adhere to appropriate existing laws and regulations
13 on the proper utilization and disposal of synthetic and chemical inputs and materials,
14 and industrial and toxic wastes. Relative to this, the Regional Government shall pursue
15 and encourage organic methods of agriculture ~~in a day~~.

16 SEC. 110. *Prevention of the Flight of Labor and Capital*. – To promote investments and
17 employment and to prevent flight of capital and labor from the CAR, the Regional Government
18 shall, in coordination and cooperation with the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC)
19 adopt measures to:

20 (a) Inhibit monopolies, cartels and unfair competition in public utilities, development,
21 trading and similar concerns. It may, in the interest of regional welfare and security,
22 establish and operate pioneering public utilities. Upon payment of just compensation, it
23 may transfer the ownership of such utilities to cooperatives or other collective
24 organizations; and

25 (b) Initiate, encourage and support industrialization in the region, taking into account the
26 culture and capabilities of the people of the area to control or manage their resources,
27 the ecological needs of the area, and the protection, conservation and development of
28 resources.

29 SEC. 111. *Eco-cultural Tourism*. – Consistent with the preservation of cultural heritage
30 and the protection of ecology, the Regional Government shall promote eco-cultural tourism.
31 Sites with historical, scientific, cultural significance including natural and man-made landmarks
32 and scenic vistas shall likewise be preserved, maintained, and protected.

1 All other kinds of tourism-oriented activities that are consistent with the principles of
2 sustainable and responsible tourism shall be promoted and developed in the CAR.

3 SEC. 112. *Promote Economic Zones.* – The Regional Government shall, in
4 coordination with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), shall
5 encourage, promote and support the establishment and development of
6 economic zones, industrial and trade centers, and airports, in strategic areas and
7 growth centers in the CAR, including the necessary support infrastructure in
8 accordance with land use and other environmental considerations, and tax
9 incentives to needed investments in the Special Economic Zones. Registered
10 enterprises under established economic zones may be entitled to pertinent fiscal
11 incentives granted under Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the National Internal
12 Revenue Code, as amended.

13 SEC. 113. *Marketing and Exportation of Indigenous Products.* – The Regional
14 Government shall, in coordination with LGUs, encourage investments in the development,
15 marketing, exportation, and protection of community intellectual rights, indigenous and other
16 local products in accordance with its development goals and priorities.

17
18 SEC. 114. *Cooperatives.* – The Regional Government shall promote cooperatives registered
19 with the Cooperative Development Authority as tools for economic development, social justice,
20 and people empowerment, to initiate policies and develop mechanisms to enjoin the
21 participation of the banking sector and financial institutions in the delivery of credit assistance
22 for the establishment and building of rural enterprises and small-medium enterprises (SMEs).

23 ARTICLE XII

24 EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 25 LANGUAGE, ARTS AND CULTURE AND SPORT

26 SEC. 115. *Regional Educational Policies.* – The Regional Government shall formulate
27 educational policies to preserve, safeguard and develop cultural heritage guided by the
28 following plans and programs:

- 1 (a) The establishment of educational institutions, colleges, and universities which shall
2 enjoy fiscal and administrative autonomy. Existing educational institutions, colleges
3 and universities shall continue to be governed by their respective charters;
- 4 (b) The development of curricular programs relevant to the preservation and development
5 of cultural heritage and responsive to the social, economic, political and moral needs of
6 the inhabitants of the CAR;
- 7 (c) The adoption and enactment of educational policies that shall recognize, support,
8 develop and promote existing indigenous system of learning; and
- 9 (d) The creation of a Regional Educational Board that will supervise, govern and intervene
10 in the establishment, adoption, and implementation of both formal and informal
11 education policies and programs for schools, colleges, and universities in the region.

12 **SEC. 116. *Education with Highest Budget Allocation.*** – The Regional Government shall
13 assign the highest budgetary priority to education.

14 **SEC. 117. *Tax Treatment of Educational Institutions.*** – Private educational
15 institutions, colleges and universities shall enjoy the protection and support of the
16 Regional Government and shall pay taxes in accordance with Section 27 (b) of the
17 National Internal Revenue Code, as amended. Importations of private educational
18 institutions, colleges and universities of economic, technical and cultural books or
19 publications, which are for economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical,
20 historical or cultural purposes, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with
21 the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs
22 Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

23 **SEC. 118. *Creation of Regional Scholarship Committee for Education.*** – The Regional
24 Government shall assist the national government in providing free basic education and shall
25 likewise endeavor to provide free tertiary education through scholarship programs, subsidies,
26 research grants and other incentives for poor, gifted, and deserving individuals. Towards this
27 end, there shall be created a Regional Scholarship Committee for Education.

28 **SEC. 119. *Rights of Teachers and Parents to Organize.*** – The right of teachers, employees,
29 students and parents to organize themselves and to participate in school policy and decision-
30 making shall be guaranteed.

1 SEC. 120. *Culture Sensitive Education.* – The educational system in the CAR shall develop
2 a research, instruction, and extension program that will promote consciousness and appreciation
3 of the ethnic identity of the people in the region in all levels of education, and shall provide a
4 better understanding of their cultural heritage for the attainment of national unity and harmony.
5 It shall provide, promote, enhance or adopt a curriculum in all levels that includes Cordillera
6 languages, customs and traditions and other indigenous knowledge systems and practices, as
7 may be applicable.

8 SEC. 121. *State Colleges and Universities.* – State colleges and universities in the CAR
9 shall form part of the regional educational sub-system and shall continue to enjoy fiscal and
10 institutional autonomy, continue to be governed by their respective charters, and enjoy support
11 of the Regional Government.

12 (a) The Regional Government shall be represented in the board of regents or trustees in
13 state universities and colleges in the region.

14 (b) The budget of state colleges and universities in the region, while prepared separately,
15 shall form part the budget of the Regional Government when presented to Congress for
16 approval. The state colleges and universities in the CAR shall continue to receive
17 funding from the national government while the Regional Government shall provide
18 additional funding.

19 (c) The Regional Government shall capacitate state colleges and universities in order to
20 provide assistance to regional development.

21 SEC. 122. *School Charters.* – Subject to the general supervision of the Regional
22 Government, all schools with charters shall continue to be governed by their respective charters.

23 SEC. 123. *Priority on Indigenous and Appropriate Technology.* – The management of
24 scientific and indigenous research and appropriate technology on all levels of education
25 including research institutions shall be given priority by the Regional Government.

26 SEC. 124. *Intellectual Property Rights.* – The incentives for the creation and
27 commercialization of intellectual properties, and assistance in the registration, protection, and
28 enforcement of intellectual property rights shall be accorded to Cordilleran artists, writers,
29 creators, innovators, scientists, researchers, and inventors from the CAR.

1 SEC. 125. *Medium of Instruction.* – The Regional Government shall retain English and
2 Filipino as medium of instruction in all levels of education. Consistent with its regional and
3 cultural identity, and whenever possible, it shall adopt a system of multi-lingual or mother
4 tongue-based approach in basic education to preserve the various languages and dialects in the
5 region, as well as the national language as maybe appropriate.

6 SEC. 126. *Sports Development.* – The Regional Government shall design and implement
7 sports development programs and indigenous games and sports which shall be a cooperative
8 responsibility of the school, the community, and the government.

9 SEC. 127. *Cultural Heritage Center.* – The Regional Government shall establish a
10 Cordillera Commission for the Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage to promote,
11 research, document, coordinate with other groups and institutions and establish and maintain a
12 data bank on all indigenous matters.

13 **ARTICLE XIII** 14 **SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND WELFARE**

15 SEC. 128. *Measures on Social Protection.* – The Regional Government commits itself to
16 social protection and shall adopt measures to:

- 17 (a) Empower and improve the quality of life of the poor, disadvantaged, marginalized, and
18 vulnerable individuals, families, sectors and communities of the CAR;
- 19 (b) Reduce or eradicate poverty to ensure that all inhabitants of the CAR are free from all
20 forms of deprivation, vulnerability, and abuse;
- 21 (c) Create equal opportunities for the inhabitants of the CAR;
- 22 (d) Promote gender sensitivity by promoting the gender and development bias in the
23 formulation and implementation of sustainable programs and policies; and
- 24 (e) Enact measures and develop programs that will protect the people from any threat of
25 violence and exploitation, eliminate trafficking in persons and mitigate pressures for
26 involuntary migration and servitude of persons, not only to support trafficked persons
27 but more importantly, to ensure their recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration into the
28 mainstream of society.

1 **SEC. 129. *Equality of Employment Opportunities.*** – The Regional Government shall
2 undertake steps to protect the labor sector and promote equality of employment opportunities
3 for all. Towards this end, it shall provide for:

4 (a) Participation of the Regional Government in the regional wage board in working out
5 periodic adjustments and rational standardization of compensation rates to ensure a
6 sustainable and decent wage for all workers;

7 (b) Profit sharing schemes that recognize the right of workers to a just share in the profits
8 of businesses, provide incentives thereof, and the right of the enterprise to reasonable
9 returns on investments;

10 (c) Protection of workers against unhealthy and unsafe working conditions; and

11 (d) Mandatory corporate social responsibility towards employees and host communities.

12 **SEC. 130. *Hiring of Qualified Cordillerans.*** – The Regional Government shall promote the
13 hiring of qualified inhabitants of the CAR in government service, government projects, and
14 private businesses located in the autonomous region.

15 **SEC. 131. *Health as a Basic Human Right.*** – The Regional Government recognizes health
16 as a basic human right, thus the attainment, maintenance and protection thereof shall be its
17 responsibility. It affirms health as an instrument for and a product of socio-economic
18 development. For this purpose, it shall:

19 (a) Establish, maintain, and support an effective health care delivery system utilizing
20 primary health care as a comprehensive and integrated approach;

21 (b) Ensure that the health care system is governed by the principles of service, social justice
22 and equity;

23 (c) Promote health knowledge and skills that will enable its people to take responsibility
24 for their health;

25 (d) Provide relevant training programs and appropriate standards for health workers and
26 professionals;

27 (e) Establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system which shall provide
28 for the adoption of an essential drug list, encourage the use of generic medicines or
29 drugs, and promote the use of herbal medicines and indigenous health resources;

30 (f) Conduct research on traditional healing methods and promote indigenous health care
31 practices;

- 1 (g) Evolve financing schemes to effectively lessen the costs of health care without
2 sacrificing the quality of health care services; and
3 (h) Prioritize health by allocating at least five percent (5%) of the Regional Annual Budget
4 to form the base of health budget.

5 SEC. 132. *Rights of Workers.* – The Regional Government shall, in consonance with the
6 Constitution, guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and
7 negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including those provided by law.

8 SEC. 133. *Rights of Vulnerable Sectors.* – The Regional Government shall:

- 9 (a) Promote the well-being of differently-abled persons, the mentally handicapped, the
10 elderly, the homeless, widowed and orphans, retirees, and veterans, and children in
11 conflict with the law; and
12 (b) Assist victims of calamities, abused and depressed children and women in crisis
13 situations, including victims of adult offenders and children in conflict with the law.
14

15 SEC. 134. *Program for Rebel Returnees.* – The Regional Government shall adopt a social
16 integration program that is responsive to the needs of rebel returnees, including children in
17 conflict with the law who shall be provided the appropriate rehabilitative psycho-social
18 services.

19 SEC. 135. *Social and Insurance Measures.* – The Regional Government shall adopt
20 insurance and social security measures that are responsive to the needs of its people to
21 supplement existing privileges.

22 SEC. 136. *Housing Programs.* – The Regional Government shall, in cooperation with the
23 private sector, promote housing programs where needed. The housing programs shall be
24 financed under liberal credit terms and shall utilize indigenous materials, architecture and
25 technology. Participation of housing cooperatives to administer the projects shall be
26 encouraged.

27 SEC. 137. *Role of Cordilleran Women.* – The Regional Government shall recognize and
28 strengthen the role of women in nation-building. It shall ensure the full implementation of RA
29 9710, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta of Women” and all other existing laws that
30 promote the welfare and protection of women.

1 SEC. 138. **Comprehensive Program on Children and Youth.** – The Regional Government
2 shall establish a comprehensive program on children and youth development, create the
3 structures to implement the same, and appropriate adequate funds to ~~provide~~ support for
4 the program.

5 SEC. 139. **Support to Peoples' Organization.** – The Regional Government shall promote
6 and support duly established peoples' organizations and encourage the formation of
7 organizations, especially those of the underprivileged.

8 **ARTICLE XIV**
9 **PEACE AND ORDER**

10 SEC. 140. **Prohibition on Private Armies.** – The Regional Government shall promote and
11 maintain peace and order and public safety in the region. It shall not allow the establishment
12 and maintenance of private armies.

13 SEC. 141. **Defense of the Region.** – The defense and security of the CAR shall be the
14 responsibility of the national government with due recognition to recommendations from the
15 Regional Government.

16 SEC. 142. **Peace Keeping Programs.** – The Regional Government shall co-manage peace-
17 keeping programs and initiatives and undertake close coordination with the Philippine National
18 Police as well as the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other national law enforcement
19 Agencies.

20 SEC. 143. **Regional Emergency.** – The provisions of the preceding sections
21 notwithstanding, the Regional Governor may request the President of the Philippines to call
22 upon the Armed Forces of the Philippines to:

- 23 (a) Prevent or suppress lawlessness, violence, invasion or rebellion, when the public safety
24 so requires, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution;
25 (b) Suppress a breach of peace or any threat against it in the CAR, when its police forces
26 are not able to do so; and
27 (c) To avert any imminent danger to public order and security in the CAR.

1 election following the ratification of this Organic Act in the plebiscite. Subsequent elections
2 shall coincide with the nationwide local elections.

3 SEC. 156. *Residency Requirement for the First Election.* – For purposes of the first
4 regional election, candidates must have actually resided and must be registered voters in the
5 region for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the election: *Provided*, That they meet
6 all other qualifications and none of the disqualifications under Article V of this Organic Act.

7 SEC. 157. *Cessation of Administrative Offices.* – Except for the regional line agencies,
8 the Cordillera Executive Board, the Cordillera Regional Assembly, and the Cordillera Bodong
9 Administration as a commission, created under Executive Order No. 220, and the Cordillera
10 Regional Development Council created by Executive Order No. 30 after the de-activation of
11 the above-mentioned Cordillera bodies, shall cease to exist immediately upon the assumption
12 of office of the Regional Governor.

13 SEC. 158. *Seat of the Regional Government.* – The seat of the Regional Government
14 shall be determined by the majority of all members of the Regional Assembly: *Provided*,
15 *however*, That the interim seat of the Regional Government shall be in the City of Baguio.

16 SEC. 159. *Oversight Committee.* – Within one (1) month from the organization of the
17 Regional Government, an Oversight Committee composed of the executive secretary as
18 Chairperson, the secretary of the DBM, the Cordillera Regional Governor, the Regional
19 Speaker of the Assembly, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local
20 Government, the Chairperson of NCIP as members, shall be organized for the purpose of
21 supervising the transfer to the CAR of such powers and functions vested in it by this Organic
22 Act and the appropriations of the offices or agencies including the transfer of properties, assets
23 and liabilities, and all personnel of the line agencies and GOCCs that may be absorbed by the
24 Regional Government and, with respect to the latter, also the terms and conditions of their
25 turnover: *Provided*, That such transfer of powers and functions shall not result in any
26 diminution of their compensation and other benefits: *Provided, further*, That the salaries of
27 absorbed personnel shall continue to be funded by the national government.

28 Within six (6) months after its organization, the oversight committee shall submit its
29 report and recommendation to the President of the Philippines who shall act on the report and

1 recommendations within ninety (90) days after receipt thereof: *Provided, however,* That if the
2 President fails to act within said period, the recommendations of the Oversight Committee shall
3 be deemed approved.

4 SEC. 160. ***Government Allocations.*** – Over and above the regularly given allocation to
5 LGUs and regional line agencies, the national government shall continue its annual allotment
6 to the Regional Government. In addition, the national government shall provide the CAR an
7 annual assistance of in the amount equivalent to Twenty Five Billion Pesos
8 (P25,000,000,000.00), at Two Billion Five Hundred Million Pesos (P2,500,000,000.00) per
9 year for a period of ten (10) years to be allocated in the following manner:

- 10 (a) Ninety percent (90%) of the annual subsidy for the Regional Government shall be
11 invested exclusively for revenue generating projects.
12 (b) Ten percent (10%) of the annual subsidy shall remain with the Regional Government as
13 Trust Fund.

14 SEC. 161. ***Revenue Allocation.*** – Fifty percent (50%) of the revenues generated
15 mentioned in Sec. 160 (a) shall be re-invested for income generating projects. The remaining
16 revenues generated shall be distributed as follows:

- 17 (a) Fifteen percent (15%) to the Regional Government ;
18 (b) Thirty five percent (35%) to the Province/highly urbanized city;

19 SEC. 162. ***Disclosure and Transparency.*** – Funds shall be available exclusively for the
20 specific purpose for which they have been appropriated. Any officer of the CAR whose duty
21 permits or requires the possession, custody and disbursement of the funds shall be accountable
22 and responsible thereof. Financial records shall be kept, audited and made public annually or
23 as often as may be necessary.

24 SEC. 163. ***Direct Release of Local Government Units' Share.*** – The share of each LGU
25 shall be released without need of any further action, directly to the provincial, city, municipal
26 or barangay treasurer, as the case may be on a quarterly basis within five (5) days after the end
27 of each quarter, and which shall not be subject to any lien or hold back that may be imposed by
28 the Regional Government for whatever purpose.

1 SEC. 164. *Appropriations.* – The sum of Two billion six hundred ninety-five million
2 (P2,695,000,000) is hereby appropriated for the following purposes:

3 (a) Twenty million pesos (PhP20,000,000.00) to be allotted to the Regional Development
4 Council for the conduct of a well-coordinated inter-sectoral and inter-agency regional,
5 provincial, municipal and barangay information campaign on this Act.

6 (b) Seventy million pesos (PhP70,000,000.00) shall be equitably divided among the
7 provinces and the City of Baguio for the conduct of Information, Education, and
8 Communication purposes.

9 (c) Twenty-Five million pesos (PhP25,000,000.00) to be allotted to the Commission on
10 Elections.

11 (d) Eighty million pesos (PhP80,000,000.00) to be allotted to the Regional Government for
12 its initial organizational requirements.

13 (e) Two billion five hundred million (P2,500,000,000) for the construction of the Regional
14 Government center.

15 The amount herein allotted to the Regional Development Council, and provinces and the
16 City of Baguio under paragraphs (a) and (b) respectively shall be released upon the
17 effectivity of this Organic Act.

18 The Cordillera Development Council shall, with the assistance of the Philippine
19 Information Agency, and in consultation with the provincial/city governments, the Cordillera
20 Association of Regional Executives, and other key stakeholders, determine the manner of
21 campaigning and the deputation of government agencies, non-government organizations and
22 other stakeholders for purposes of conducting a well-coordinated information campaign within
23 the first three (3) months after the passage of this Act.

24 The amount of Two billion six hundred ninety-five million (P2,695,000,000) as herein
25 appropriated shall be charged against the contingent fund. Any deficiency thereof shall be taken
26 from any available fund of the national government.

27 SEC. 165. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Organic Act is declared as
28 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part or parts thereof not affected thereby shall remain
29 valid and effective.

1 SEC. 166. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations which are
2 inconsistent with this Organic Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

3 SEC. 167. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication
4 in the *Official Gazette* and in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,