

Congress of the Philippines }  
First Regular Session

S E N A T E



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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 114

Submitted by the Committee on Local Governments on  
February 5, 1988

Re: Senate Bill No. 162

Recommending approval of the amendment by substitution prepared  
by the Committee

Sponsors: Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.  
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MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Local Governments to which was recommitted  
Senate Bill No. 162, introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel,  
Jr., entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE  
COMMISSION, DESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS  
AND DUTIES PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES"

has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to  
the Senate with the recommendation that the amendment by substi-  
tution prepared by the Committee, entitled:

"AN ACT ORGANIZING THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE  
COMMISSION, DESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS  
AND DUTIES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

be approved with Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. and the Com-  
mittee on Local Government as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.  
Chairman

ALBERTO G. ROMULO  
Vice-Chairman

M E M B E R S

*[Signature]*  
AGAPITO A. AQUINO

*[Signature]*  
JOSEPH E. ESTRADA

*[Signature]*  
NATALIA A. GONZALES

*with reservation*  
*[Signature]*  
SOLERO H. LAUREL

*[Signature]*  
JOSE D. LINA, JR.

*with reservation*  
*[Signature]*  
ERNESTO M. MACEDA

JOHN H. OSMEÑA

*[Signature]*  
VICENTE T. PATERNO

*with reservation*  
RENE A.V. SAGUISAG

*[Signature]*  
SANTANINA T. RASUL

*with reservation*  
*[Signature]*  
LETICIA R. SHAHANI

*with reservation*  
*[Signature]*  
WIGBERTO E. TANADA

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

*[Signature]*  
ORLANDO S. MERCADO  
Majority Floor Leader

*[Signature]* (With reservation)  
JUAN PONCE ENRILE  
Minority Floor Leader



TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.  
President Pro-Tempore

HON. JOVITO R. SALONGA  
President of the Senate

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
S E N A T E  
M a n i l a



FIRST REGULAR SESSION

S. NO. 162  
(AMENDMENT BY SUBSTITUTION)

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. and the  
Committee on Local Government, per Committee Report No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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AN ACT  
ORGANIZING THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION, DESCRIBING  
ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title of the Act. - This Act shall be  
known as the Regional Consultative Commission Act of 1988.

SEC. 2. Purpose of the Commission. - It shall be the  
purpose of the Regional Consultative Commission to assist  
and participate in the enactment by Congress of the Organic  
Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SEC. 3. Composition of the Commission. - To carry out  
the above purpose, there is hereby created the Regional  
Consultative Commission, hereinafter referred to as the  
"Commission", composed of twenty-seven (27) members to be  
appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of  
nominees proposed by the different multisectoral bodies  
coming from the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi,  
Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, North Cotabato,  
Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur,  
Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, and Palawan, as well as the  
chartered city of Zamboanga: Provided, That each of the  
twenty-seven (27) legislative districts in the

above-mentioned provinces and city shall have at least one (1) representative: Provided, further, That the President may, at her own discretion, appoint not more than twenty-three (23) other sectoral representatives to the Commission from the proposed area of autonomy.

SEC. 4. Qualification. - No person shall be appointed member of the Commission unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of his appointment, a resident of the region for at least five (5) years, a qualified voter, and of recognized probity, integrity, independence and nationalism.

SEC. 5. Disqualifications - The following are disqualified from being members of the Commission:

a) Public officials, unless they resign or take a leave of absence from their respective offices upon their acceptance of the appointment to the Commission: Provided, That failure to resign or take a leave of absence shall automatically nullify the appointment;

b) Persons who have run and lost in the last preceding national or local elections;

c) Persons convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, unless granted absolute pardon or amnesty.

SEC. 6. Oath of Affirmation. - Members of the Commission shall qualify and assume office by taking the following oath or affirmation:

"I (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my duties as member of the Regional Consultative Commission for Mindanao to assist Congress in the enactment



of an organic act for Muslim Mindanao that is truly reflective of the ideals and aspirations of the people of Muslim Mindanao, and preserve and defend the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines."

SEC. 7. Organization. - (a) The Peace Commission shall take charge of all arrangements for the convening of the Regional Consultative Commission .

(b) The Commission shall be convened by the President or her duly authorized representative on the first day of March 1988. The opening session shall be held in the City of Zamboanga at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

(c) The Peace Commissioner shall preside at its opening session until a presiding officer is elected by the Commission. The Commission shall be deemed organized upon the election and qualification of a Chairman and presiding officer.

(d) A majority of all its members shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may meet, adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as the Commission may provide.

(e) Th Commission may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members, expel a member.

(f) The Commissioners shall hold office in their respective districts. The Commission Secretariat shall be based in the City of Zamboanga.

(g) The plenary sessions of the Commission shall be public and duly recorded. It shall hold its sessions in the City of Zamboanga, provided that the Commission or any

of its committees may also hold sessions in the City of Cotabato or any other place in the Philippines that the Commission or any of its committees may determine.

Consultations with committees of either House of Congress shall be held at their respective seats in Metropolitan Manila.

(h) The buildings of the Sangguniang Pampook and their premises in the Cities of Zamboanga and Cotabato are hereby made available for the use of the Commission. All government entities, agencies and instrumentalities in the proposed area of autonomy shall place at the disposal of the Commission such of their personnel, premises and furniture as can, in their judgment, be spared without detriment to public service, without cost, refund or additional pay.

SEC. 8. Filling of vacancies. - Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Commission, the President may, upon due certification by the Chairman of the Commission, fill the vacancy by appointment after consultation with the group or sector represented by the member who caused such vacancy.

SEC. 9. Parliamentary Immunities. - (a) A member of the Commission shall, in all offenses punishable by not more than six (6) years imprisonment, be privileged from arrest during attendance of its sessions, and in going to and returning from the same.

(b) A member of the Commission shall not be questioned nor held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Commission, in any committee thereof, or in any public hearing conducted by the Commission or any committee thereof whenever held.

(c) The penalties imposed in Articles 143, 144 and 145 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended, for offenses defined therein shall apply to any person committing an offense against the Commission or its committees or subcommittees, or the members thereof.

SEC. 10. Drafting of the Organic Act. - (a) The Commission shall prepare and finish a working draft of the Organic Act within one hundred and fifty (150) days from its organization, copies of which shall be forwarded to Congress. The draft shall be the product of district consultations and Commission meetings.

(b) Direct popular consultations at the district level shall be undertaken by each member of the Commission, and where possible, together with his counterpart Congressman, to ensure that the Organic Act shall embody the sentiments and aspirations of the people. The active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) shall be ensured during such consultations.

(c) The Commission shall ensure that all resolutions and views presented or submitted to it are properly documented. The results of the consultations shall be made available to the general public under such guidelines as the Commission may deem reasonable and necessary.

(d) The Commission or any of its Committees may also accept resolutions or drafts presented directly to it during any of its hearings or deliberations.

SEC. 11. Interaction with Congress. - The Chairman of the Commission and other Committee Chairmen shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Commission which shall coordinate the work of the Commission with both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 12. Congressional Approval. - Congress shall endeavor to pass the Organic Act within one hundred twenty (120) days from the submission of the Commission's draft.

SEC. 13. Plebiscite. - (a) The creation of the autonomous region shall be effective when approved by majority of the votes cast by the constituent units in a plebiscite called for the purpose: Provided, That only provinces, cities, and geographic areas voting favorably in such plebiscite shall be included in the autonomous region.

b) The Commission on Elections shall fix the date of the plebiscite for the ratification or rejection of the proposed Organic Act which shall not be later than sixty (60) days from its approval.

SEC. 14. Tenure. - The Commission shall hold office until such time as the proposed Organic Act takes effect.

SEC. 15. Staffing. - The Commission shall be responsible for maintaining its own Secretariat as well as such other staff as it may deem necessary.

Each Commissioner shall also be entitled to a personal staff of four (4) composed of an executive assistant, a secretary and two technical assistants.

SEC. 16 Compensation. Each member shall be entitled to a per diem of five hundred pesos (P500.00) for each day of attendance in the Commission or any of its committees, or during district consultations, and a living allowance of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per month, and actual travelling expenses.

SEC. 17. Funding. - The sum of Forty million pesos is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National



Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the purposes for which this Commission is formed.

SEC. 18. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,



Senate Archives (LRAS)