

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6649, March 11, 1988]

AN ACT CREATING THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO, PRESCRIBING 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 for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao."

SEC. 2. *Purpose of the Commission.*—It is the purpose of the Regional Consultative Commission to assist 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, and considering ethno-linguistic, geographical, sectoral, educational and cultural factors, there is hereby created the Regional Consultative Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," which shall be composed of not more than fifty-five (55) members, twenty-seven (27) of whom shall 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 and the component cities therein: *Provided*, That each of the twenty-seven (27) legislative districts in the abovementioned provinces and city shall have one (1) representative who shall be a resident thereof: *Provided, further*, That the enumeration of the aforementioned provinces and city shall not mean that all or any of them constitute Muslim Mindanao as the term appears in Sections 15 and 19 of Article X of the Constitution: *Provided, furthermore*, That the President may, at her own discretion, appoint not more than twenty-eight (28) other sectoral representatives to the Commission from the proposed area of autonomy: *Provided, finally*, That all nominees to the Regional Consultative Commission shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments and that the ethnic groups shall be properly represented.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications.*—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 immediately preceding the appointment, a qualified voter or one who would qualify as such, and of recognized probity, integrity, independence and nationalism.

SEC. 5. *Disqualification.*—The following are disqualified from being members of the Commission:

- a. Persons disqualified under the Constitution, and existing laws;
- b. Persons convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.

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

"I, _____, having been appointed to the (name) position of Member of the Regional Consultative Commission, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position 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, that I will obey the laws and legal orders promulgated by the duly constituted authorities and maintain true faith and allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion. So help me God."

Provided, That in case of affirmation, this last sentence may be omitted.

SEC. 7. *Organization.*—(a) The Office of the President of the Philippines shall take charge of all arrangements for the convening of the Regional Consultative Commission.

(b) The Commission shall be convened by the President of the Philippines or her duly authorized representative within fifteen (15) days after the approval of this Act. The opening session shall be held in the City of Zamboanga at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, or in such other date and place as may be fixed by the President.

(c) The President of the Philippines or her duly authorized representative 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 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) The 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) While not attending sessions, the Commissioners shall hold office in their respective districts. The Commission Secretariat shall be based in the City of Zamboanga, or in such other place as may be fixed by the Commission.

(g) The plenary sessions of the Commission shall be public and duly recorded. It shall hold its sessions in the City of Zamboanga, or in such other place as may be fixed by the Commission, provided that the Commission or any of its committees may also hold sessions in the City of Cotabato or in such 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.