



Republic of the Philippines  
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
**REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
Cotabato City

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**RLA BILL 128**

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(Sixth Regular Session)**

**[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 122]**

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Monday the twenty-third of April, two thousand one.

**AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, PROVIDING ITS COMPOSITION, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Be it enacted by the Regional Legislative Assembly in session assembled:

**ARTICLE I  
Short Title**

**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "Regional Youth Act of 2001" of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

**ARTICLE II  
Declaration of Principles and Regional Policies**

**SECTION 1.** The Regional Government adheres to adopt the principle of "parens patriae" to guide the youth to attain wholesome growth and development towards responsible citizenry.

**SEC. 2.** The Regional Government recognizes the vital role of the youth in the task of regional development towards nation building.

**SEC. 3.** It is the policy of the Regional Government to:

- a) Promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth;

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- b) Provide the opportunity for youth involvement and participation in social challenges, economic entrepreneurship and political leadership training;
- c) Secure upon the youth the blessings of freedom, justice and equality, and empower them to create a dignified, just and humane society;
- d) Inculcate upon the youth the ideals of patriotism and nationalism, truth, justice and human rights and other positive values; and infuse and cultivate in them faith in the Almighty Creator of the Universe, belief in the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person and conviction for the strength and inviolability of social institutions and family;
- e) Establish intervention mechanisms for youth activities for civic efficiency, environmental protection, agricultural and industrial productivity, reduction of the incidence of poverty, and acceleration of socio-economic development; and
- f) Mobilize the potentials, skills, abilities and talents of the youth in the area of autonomy, and redirect their industry, creativity, inventive genius and wellspring of enthusiasm for socio-economic and political empowerment that shall create a horizon of hope for the freedom of our people from fear, hunger and injustice.

### ARTICLE III

#### Youth Development Program and Projects

SECTION 1. There is hereby established the "Comprehensive and Coordinated Youth Development Program," hereinafter referred to as the "Program".

SEC. 2. The Program shall have the following components:

- (a) Formulation, approval and implementation of the Medium-Term Youth Development Program for four (4) years following the approval of this Act and every three (3) years thereafter, which shall be aligned to complement the Philippine Medium





Term Youth Development Plan, taking into account this existing National Youth Development Plan as provided for in Executive Order No. 484 dated June 8, 1998, incorporating therein the four (4) key result areas of (1) peace process initiative; (2) enhancement on cultural heritage; (3) enhancement on Islamic awareness; and (4) enhancement on socio-economic and political awareness;

- (b) A regional study on the present "State of Affairs" of the youth in the ARMM, following the approval of this Act, and every three (3) years thereafter which identifies priority needs, prevailing attitudes and values of the youth, the existing services, and the gaps in services delivery of the basic needs of the youth;
- © A "Regional Review, Evaluation and Reform" of all organizations delivering services to the youth immediately after the approval of this Act, and every three (3) years thereafter;
- (d) Activities to operationalize the implementing structure of the Development Program, to prepare the participation of the youth in global activities and to provide leadership and support therefore on a sustained basis; and
- (e) The comprehensive, coordinated regionwide service delivery system comprising of: (1) existing public and civic services for youth which will fully support the policy and program framework under this Act; and (2) innovative services and delivery system institutional in areas without or with inadequate services and which are responsive to the needs, following pilot demonstration projects to test the validity and feasibility of the service.

#### ARTICLE IV Definition of Terms

SECTION 1. For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- (a) "Youth" refers to persons fifteen (15) to forty (40) years old.
- (b) "Youth Organization" refers to organizations with membership composed of youth.
- (c) "Youth-Serving Organizations" refers to registered organizations or institutions where principal programs, projects and activities are youth-oriented and youth-related.





- (d) "Program" refers to the Comprehensive and Coordinated Development Program.
- (e) "Regional Government" refers to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).
- (f) "Bureau" refers to the Bureau of Youth Affairs.
- (g) "Council" refers to the coordinating and Advisory Council.

#### ARTICLE V

##### The Bureau, its Status and Nature

SECTION 1. To carry out the purpose of this Act, there is hereby created a Bureau of Youth Affairs, hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau".

SEC. 2. The Bureau shall have the same status as the other agencies/offices of the Regional Government attached to the Office of the Regional Governor.

SEC. 3. The Bureau shall exercise corporate powers and fiscal autonomy. It shall adopt its own seal. It may sue and be sued, and shall be the sole policy-making and coordinating body of all youth-related institutions, programs, projects and activities of the Regional Government.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### Powers and Functions

SECTION 1. The Bureau shall have the following powers:

- (a) To enter into contracts, subject to approval or concurrence of the Regional Governor;
- (b) To acquire, own, possess and dispose of properties, real or personal, including land, building, facilities, equipment, instruments, tools and rights required or otherwise necessary for the accomplishment/realization of the goals of the office;
- (c) To accept donations, gifts, bequests and grants from benevolent individuals, entity, corporations, organizations, businesses, establishments, and foundations, whether domestic or foreign;
- (d) To monitor and ensure the implementation by various Regional Government departments, agencies, and offices of their respective youth development programs/projects/activities as indicated in their annual budget or appropriations, whether locally or nationally funded;

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- (e) To certify for accreditation/registration by the proper government agency any youth organization or institution;
- (f) To issue rules and regulations in pursuance of the provisions of this Act; and
- (g) To perform any and all other acts incidental to or required by virtue of its creation.

**SEC. 2. The Bureau shall have the following functions:**

- (a) To formulate and initiate regional policies on youth;
- (b) To plan, implement, and oversee a regional integrated youth promotion and development program;
- (c) To establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide a forum for continuing dialogue between the government and the youth sector on the proper planning and evaluation of policies, programs and projects affecting the youth, convening for the purpose, representatives of all accredited youth organizations and institutions, including the Sangguniang Kabataan from barangay, municipal, city and provincial levels;
- (d) To assist and coordinate with government and non-government organizations or institutions and allocate resources for the execution/ implementation of all laws, policies, programs and projects relative to youth welfare and development;
- (e) To enlist, seek or request the assistance and support of any government agency, office or instrumentality including government-owned or controlled corporations, local government units as well as non-government organizations or institutions in pursuance of its policies, programs and projects;
- (f) To conduct scientific, interdisciplinary and policy-oriented researches and studies on youth-related matters, as well as training, seminars, symposia, and workshops that will enhance the skill and leadership potentials of the youth, instilling in them nationalism and patriotism, with particular emphasis on Bangsamoro Culture and Islamic values;
- (g) To establish and maintain linkages with international youth and youth-serving organizations or institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign governments in order to facilitate and ensure the participation of Bangsamoro Youth in international functions and affairs;
- (h) To administer youth exchange program as well as to monitor and coordinate all foreign-sponsored youth programs and projects;
- (i) To establish such provincial/municipal/city offices, as may be required to effectively carry out its functions;



- (j) To register/facilitate/help in the establishment of youth organizations and youth serving organizations, and provide financial assistance to such organizations including scholarship grants;
- (k) To participate in international youth symposia and organizations;
- (l) To support, coordinate/monitor the programs, projects and activities of Sangguniang Kabataan in every barangay; city, municipality and provincial levels, as well as Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan, the National Youth Commission and other youth sectors within the area of the ARMM;
- (m) To submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the Regional Governor and to the Regional Legislative Assembly; and
- (n) To perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively and efficiently carry out the provisions of this Act.

#### ARTICLE VII

##### Bureau, Composition, Qualification and Appointment

SECTION 1. The officers of the Bureau shall be one (1) Executive Director, one (1) Executive Assistant and three (3) Chiefs of Division, to head the Finance and Administrative Division, Technical Management Division and Entrepreneurship/Livelihood Division. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Regional Governor from among the list of nominees submitted by youth organizations within the ARMM, subject to existing Civil Service laws, rules and regulations. Such nominating organizations must be certified by the proper government agency existing as of the approval of this Act.

SEC. 2. No person shall be appointed Executive Director unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines; a resident of the Autonomous Region; a college degree holder; of good moral character; and is not convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 3. The Executive Director shall appoint other personnel of the Bureau subject to civil service law.

SEC. 4. Unless otherwise provided, there shall be four (4) provincial coordinator positions to be filled up by personnel to be assigned in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan.

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SEC. 5. The Executive Director and other personnel of the Office shall receive standard annual compensation as may be authorized by law for equivalent rank, subject to across the board salary increases or adjustments.

SEC. 6. The Executive Director shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To direct and manage the day-to-day affairs of the Office in accordance with its policies, programs and plans;
- (b) To approve and sign disbursements as may be authorized within the appropriations of the Office, subject to existing and standard accounting, budgeting and auditing procedures, rules and regulations;
- (c) To prepare and submit, within thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal year, an annual accomplishment report to the Regional Governor and to the Regional Legislative Assembly;
- (d) To enter into contracts, of any lawful or legal kind as may be necessary to achieve the purpose and goals of the Office, subject to approval and concurrence of the Regional Governor;
- (e) To issue directives, office policies, orders, and other administrative instructions and circulars required and as may be necessary for effective and efficient office management;
- (f) To attend and sit in ex-officio capacity in meetings of the regional cabinet and the Regional Economic and Development Planning Board (REDPB); and
- (g) To perform such other duties as may be determined by law.

SEC. 11. The Executive Assistant shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- (a) To assist the Executive Director in the performance of his duties;
- (b) To assume the powers and duties of the Executive Director whenever the latter is absent or incapacitated and, in his absence or when incapacitated, the Chief of Division, designated as Officer-in-Charge, shall assume the powers and duties of the Executive Director; and
- (c) To perform such other duties and functions as may be delegated by the Executive Director.

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**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Coordinating and Advisory Council**

**SECTION 1.** There shall be a Coordinating and Advisory Council which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Regional Governor/Executive Secretary-ORG – Chairman**
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|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Regional Secretary</b>    | <b>- DECS ARMM</b>  | <b>- Vice Chairman</b> |
| <b>Executive Director</b>    | <b>- BYA, ARMM</b>  | <b>- Ex-Officio</b>    |
| <b>Member</b>                |                     |                        |
| <b>Committee on Youth</b>    | <b>- RLA, ARMM</b>  | <b>- Member</b>        |
| <b>Regional Secretary</b>    | <b>- DILG, ARMM</b> | <b>- Member</b>        |
| <b>Regional Secretary</b>    | <b>- DSWD, ARMM</b> | <b>- Member</b>        |
| <b>Regional Secretary</b>    | <b>- DAF, ARMM</b>  | <b>- Member</b>        |
| <b>Regional Secretary</b>    | <b>- DOLE, ARMM</b> | <b>- Member</b>        |
| <b>Regional Secretary</b>    | <b>- DTI, ARMM</b>  | <b>- Member</b>        |
| <b>Regional Secretary</b>    | <b>- DENR, ARMM</b> | <b>- Member</b>        |
| <b>Regional Commissioner</b> | <b>- RSC, ARMM</b>  | <b>- Member</b>        |

**SEC. 2.** The Council shall meet once every three (3) months or, as often as may be necessary, upon call of its chairman for advice and consultation on important matters relative to youth affairs, welfare and development.

**SEC. 3.** The Bureau shall provide the necessary technical and secretariat support required by the Council to function according to this Act.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Fiscal Autonomy**

**SECTION 1.** The Bureau shall have fiscal autonomy in order to effectively and efficiently address its plans, programs and projects in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 2.** The Bureau shall maintain a distinct and separate account with any government reputable bank of its choice within the locality.

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**ARTICLE X**  
**Budget Appropriation and Properties**

**SECTION 1.** After approval of this Act, the Budget for Fiscal year 2001-2002 of the Coordinating and Development Office on Bangsamoro Youth Affairs (CDO-BYA) created pursuant to Executive Order No. 03, series of 1997 shall be transferred to the Bureau including all properties, facilities, equipments, furnitures and fixtures, acquired, owned and possessed by the CD0-BYA prior to the passage of this Act.

**SEC. 2.** The Bureau shall prepare and submit its annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year and thereafter.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**Separability Clause**

**SECTION 1.** The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separate and in the event one or more provisions of this Act are held unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**Repealing Clause**

**SECTION 1.** All regional laws, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**Transitory Provision**

**SECTION 1.** The officials, staff, and rank-and-file personnel of the Coordinating and Development Office on Bangsamoro Youth Affairs (CDO-BYA) created pursuant to Executive No. 03, series of 1997 shall continue to hold office and receive salaries unless otherwise terminated.

**SEC. 2.** The Regional Governor shall, upon effectivity of this Act, appoint the Executive Director of the Bureau of Youth Affairs.

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SEC. 3. The Executive Director shall, immediately after receiving his appointment paper, appoint the officers and personnel thereof with priority to qualified employees under the CDO-BYA, subject to Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 4. Any obligations incurred by the CDO-BYA during its incumbency shall not make the Bureau responsible, liable and answerable, except that whatever settlement thereof shall be charged against the transferred budget/appropriation of CDO-BYA for Fiscal year 2001-2002.


ARTICLE XIV  
Effectivity

SECTION 1. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED:

  
ALVAREZ S. ISNAJI  
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Assembly on August 21, 2001.

  
WILSON S. ANNI  
Secretary General

APPROVED:

PROF. NUR P. MISUARI  
Regional Governor  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_