

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

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(Second Regular Session)

Begun and held in Cotabato City on Monday, the twenty eight day of April, nineteen hundred and ninety seven.

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[ MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 53 ]

"AN ACT CREATING A REGIONAL COMMISSION ON BANGSAMORO WOMEN, DEFINING ITS COMPOSITION, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to recognize the role of women in regional development and nation building. Towards this end, the Autonomous Regional Government shall promote their well-being and ensure their fundamental rights and equality with men before the law.

SEC. 2. Creation. - To carry out this policy, there is hereby created a Regional Commission on Women, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission". The Commission is under the control and supervision of the Regional Governor.

SEC. 3. Aims and Purposes. - The aims and purposes of the Commission are the following:

1. Motivate and encourage the active involvement and participation of women in civic organizations and public affairs;
2. Protect and promote the rights, dignity and welfare of women;
3. Extend any form and type of assistance to disabled and aged women;



4. Devise ways and means to promote household industries, handicrafts and textile weaving;
5. Conduct leadership and technical training for women;
6. Instill and promote nationalism and patriotism, as well as unity in diversity; and
7. Promote the participation of home and community in school and religious organizations in the total educative process of the child.

SEC. 4. Composition. - The Commission shall be composed of one (1) Chairman and four (4) Commissioners.

SEC. 5. Qualification and Appointment. - No person may be appointed as Chairman or Commissioner, unless she is a natural - born citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the Autonomous Region for five (5) years, at least thirty five (35) years of age on the day of her appointment, a registered voter, holder of a masteral degree or its equivalent and of good moral character.

The Chairman and the Commissioners shall be appointed by the Regional Governor and their tenure of office shall be co-terminous with the appointing authority: Provided that each component province of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall be represented.

SEC. 6. Compensation. - The Chairman shall receive an annual compensation of One Hundred Eighty Thousand (P180,000.00) Pesos while the Commissioner shall receive an annual compensation of One Hundred Forty-Four (P144,000.00) pesos. Such salaries are subject to across-the-board increase and adjustments as may be allowed by law or rules and regulations.

In addition, each is entitled to all benefits and privileges corresponding to their respective positions as may be authorized by law.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions. - The Chairman shall be the administrative head of the Commission and shall be assisted by the Commissioners in the performance of her duties.

Specifically, the chairman shall exercise the following powers and functions, namely:

1. Approve and sign vouchers, payroll, check, RIV and other disbursement documents as may be authorized by law;
2. Appoint and for cause, terminate, suspend or discipline personnel of the Commission;



3. Formulate a plan for the participation and involvement of women in non-government organization or cooperatives;
4. Coordinate with other sectors for communal development;
5. Organize women's organizations and establish municipal, provincial and regional chapters;
6. Represent the women in Muslim Mindanao to regional, national and international women's conferences as may be invited;
7. Act as ex-officio member of the Regional Planning and Development Board;
8. Protect women's rights from abuse and seek justice for them in any forum or court of law to redress their grievancies;
9. Prepare the development plan for Muslim Mindanao Women that shall serve as the blue print for their social, economic and political development; and
10. Perform such other related function and activities as may be assigned by the Regional Governor from time to time.

SEC. 8. Staff. - The Women's Commission shall be supported by planning, education and training, administrative and finance divisions and such other units necessary for its operation.

In addition, there shall be in every province one (1) provincial coordinator of the Commission to assist, organize and monitor the activities of women's organizations.

SEC. 9. Registration of Women's Organizations. - All women's organizations in Muslim Mindanao shall be registered with the Commission: Provided, That, in the case of a cooperative, the same shall be registered with the Security and Exchange Commission or the Cooperative Development Authority and thereafter it shall be recorded with the Commission.

SEC. 10. Coordination. - The Women's Commission shall coordinate closely with the Human Rights Commission, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Bureau on Cultural Heritage, national or international Women's Organizations, the Cooperative Development Authority and civic institutions to pursue and advance the welfare of women in the Autonomous Region.




SEC. 11. Funding. - For the initial organization and operation of the Commission, the sum of One Million (P1,000,000.00) Pesos is hereby appropriated out of any available funds in the Regional Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, its regular budget shall be included in the annual national and regional budget proposals of the Autonomous Regional Government.

SEC. 12. Audit. - The financial accounts of the income and expenditures of the Commission shall be audited by the Commission on Audit.

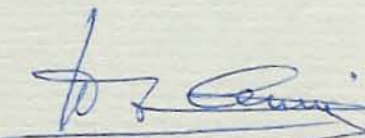
SEC. 13. Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision thereof shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

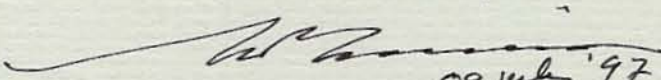
APPROVED:

  
KABELAN G. SEMA  
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on June 25, 1997.

  
WILSON S. ANNI  
Secretary

APPROVED:

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

09 July '97  
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