

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

EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(First Regular Session)

[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 311]

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Monday, the twenty-second day of July 2013.

**“AN ACT INSTITUTING A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM,
ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT FUND THEREOF,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.”**

Be it enacted by the Regional Assembly in session assembled:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. – This Act shall be known and cited as the “ARMM Scholarship Grant Act of 2014.”

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES. – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote their intellectual well-being. It is the policy of the State to protect and uphold the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Consistent with the above basic state policies, the Regional Government hereby adopts a synchronized scholarship scheme to all qualified students residing in its jurisdiction.

The scholarships herein provided shall be granted in accordance with the following principles:

- a) The scholarship grants shall be extended only to poor but bright and deserving students who shall be selected through competitive examinations;
- b) The scholarship grants shall be open to all qualified applicants; and

- c) The scholarship program shall be designed to allow students to pursue degree courses on applied sciences which are relevant to the human resource requirements of the Autonomous Region necessary for its development. In this relation, successful grantees shall, through their respective skills and expertise, contribute to the development effort of the regional autonomous government.

SEC 3. CRITERIA FOR THE GRANT. - The Program grant shall be based on a set of criteria which shall ensure that only the upper twenty percent (20%) of graduating students, who are poor, in the recognized high schools in the Autonomous Region may take the qualifying examinations. Provided, that they must enroll in a recognized state college or university and maintain a general weighted average of not less than eighty percent (80%) or its equivalent with no failing mark in any of the subjects enrolled in a particular semester.

In addition thereof, the applicant for the scholarship program must be a resident of the Autonomous Region for the last four (4) years prior to the availing of the scholarship, as attested by the applicant's school records or any valid proof and, must be of good moral character as certified by the applicant's high school and in good health as evidenced by a required medical certificate for the purpose.

SEC. 4. FORMS OF ENTITLEMENTS. - For the purpose of this Act, the grantee shall be entitled to free full tuition fees, miscellaneous school fees, monthly stipends and book allowances per semester.

The scholarship management office and the concerned schools and universities may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the submission of grades and releases of stipends and book allowances and other financial requirements necessary.

SEC. 5. SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY BOARD AND SCHOLARSHIP MANAGEMENT OFFICE. - There is hereby created a Scholarship Advisory Board responsible for the planning, policy-formulation and direction of the scholarship program which shall be composed of the ARMM regional governor or his assigned representative as chair, five (5) provincial governors of the ARMM or their assigned representatives, executive director of the Regional Planning and Development Office (RPDO) or assigned representative, regional secretary of the ARMM Department of Education (DepEd) or assigned representative, chairperson of the ARMM Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or assigned representative, regional secretary of the ARMM Department of Science and Technology (DOST) or assigned representative, and the chair of the Regional Assembly's Committee on Education, Arts, Culture and Sports Development or assigned representative, as members.

As support office, there shall likewise be hereby created a Scholarship Management Office under the supervision of the ORG on Special Concerns. The Office shall be in charge of the management, administration, monitoring and evaluation of the scholarship program. It shall be headed by a director and assisted by a necessary number of staff personnel.

SEC. 6. ENDOWMENT FUND. – An Endowment Fund, hereinafter to be known as the Fund, is hereby established exclusively for the grant of scholarships.

The Fund shall be comprised of the following:

- a) Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00) allocation from the Regional Government as seed capital subject to increase every three (3) years of implementation on such amount or percentage to be determined by the Scholarship Advisory Board;
- b) Donations, gifts and bequests from government corporations;
- c) Donations, aids-in-grants and other conveyances by gratuitous title from private individuals and corporations either domestic or foreign; and
- d) Proceeds from business ventures, fund raising programs and other financial activities using the Fund.

The scholarship grants contemplated under this Act shall be chargeable against the above-enumerated sources of funds.

SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND. – For the sound and judicious management and administration of the Endowment Fund, the Scholarship Management Office shall act as its fund manager and administrator subject to the guidelines promulgated by the Scholarship Advisory Board for the purpose. As such, the Office shall prepare mechanisms for the effective management and administration of the Fund.

SEC. 8. DONATIONS AND AIDS-IN-GRANT. – The Scholarship Management Office shall be authorized to receive donations, gifts, bequests, aids-in-grants and to undertake business ventures, fund raising and other financial activities in support to the scholarship program consistent with Section 7 hereof. All donations, grants in aid and proceeds from such financial programs and activities shall accrue exclusively to the Endowment Fund designed to support the scholarship program.

SEC. 9. TAX EXEMPTIONS. - All donations, aids in grants, proceeds from the business ventures, fund raising and other financial activities for the scholarship program shall be free from all taxes, fees and charges levied by all government entities.

SEC. 10. SCHOLARSHIP MANAGEMENT OFFICE BUDGET. - The administrative funds necessary for the whole operation of the Scholarship Management Office shall form part of the annual regional ARMM budget.

SEC. 11. IMPLEMENTING BODY. – The scholarship program provided under this Act shall be implemented by the Scholarship Management Office under the supervision of the ORG on Special Concerns, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SEC. 12. FUNDS. - The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act in the amount of twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) as initial seed capital and four million pesos (P4,000,000.00) for the organization and initial operation of the Scholarship Management Office are hereby appropriated out of the funds of the Regional Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Thereafter, there shall be a regional appropriation to increase the seed capital every three (3) years of implementation on such amount or percentage as may be recommended by the Scholarship Advisory Board.

The administrative funds of the Scholarship Management Office shall be appropriated annually by the regional government as part of the annual ARMM budget.

SEC. 13. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – Within three (3) months following the approval of this Act, a Technical Working Group shall be constituted to formulate the appropriate implementing rules and regulations of this Act and submit the same to the regional governor for approval. The TWG shall be composed of one (1) representative from the Office of the Regional Governor, one (1) representative each of the 5 provincial governments of the ARMM, one (1) representative from RPDO, one (1) representative from DepEd-ARMM, one (1) representative from CHED-ARMM, one (1) representative from DOST-ARMM and three (3) representatives from the secretariat of the Regional Assembly.

SEC. 14. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - Should any part or parts of this Act be declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other part or parts hereof not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All regional laws, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Autonomous Region.

APPROVED

(SGD)DATU ROONIE Q. SINSUAT
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on January 16, 2014.

(SGD) DATU MAMA M. AMPATUAN
Secretary-General

APPROVED:

(SGD)MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Regional Governor
Date: _____

Lapsed into law on February 17, 2014 pursuant to Section 17, Article VI of Republic Act No. 9054.



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



EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(1st Regular Session)

January 16, 2014

HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Regional Governor
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Cotabato City

Sir :

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 17 of Republic Act 9054, I have the honor to forward the herewith attached copy of RLA Bill No. 05, which was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao during its Regular Session on January 16, 2014, entitled:

**“AN ACT INSTITUTING A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM,
ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT FUND THEREOF,
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PURPOSES.”**

For Your Honor’s appropriate action.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

DATU MAMA M. AMPATUAN
Secretary-General