



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3997**



Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In pursuit of the established principles of social justice as enshrined in the Constitution, all sectors of society must be included in the discourse for national development. This tenet should empower us especially when it comes to the relationship of the State and our indigenous peoples.

Conventional knowledge dictates that respect for the rights of the indigenous peoples and area development are sometimes two contradictory ideas. This should not be the case. If Government will only include the indigenous peoples in the discourse for the development of our communities, then the maximum impact desired insofar as economic and cultural prosperity is concerned, will be collectively achieved.

The fact of the matter is that recognizing the indispensable role of the indigenous peoples of the country comes as an inalienable prerequisite if true progress and development are to become a reality. Government must never leave them out of the equation as they are our *cultural foundation* and are part of the fabric which weaves the Filipino people together as a whole.

The Subic Bay area is home to many members of the indigenous communities. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority is composed of many distinguished individuals who work tirelessly and conscientiously to support, among others, the livelihood of the thousands of Filipinos working directly or indirectly in the area. It is in this government agency that the participation of indigenous peoples in the development process must be mandated now. Ensuring that they have a voice in key decisions being made by the SBMA would be a start, but – by no means – shall the commitment of the Government to uphold the rights of the indigenous communities end there. Together hand-in-hand, with our foreign investors and indigenous peoples, we shall make Subic Bay a model cultural community and the most prosperous economic zone of the Philippine Republic.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE**  
**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUBIC**  
**BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE**  
**PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BASES**  
**CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

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

*Section 1.* Section 13 of Republic Act 7227, otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 13. *The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority*

”xxx

“(c) Board of Directors – The powers of the Subic Authority shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of fifteen (15) members, to wit:

2) Representatives of the local government units (LGUs) that concur to join the Subic Special Economic Zone and nearby LGUs from the Province of Bataan that are traversed by the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX);

2) Two (2) representatives from the National Government;

3) Five (5) representatives from the private sector coming from the present naval stations, public works center, ship repair facility, naval supply depot and naval air station;

4) One (1) representative of the indigenous peoples from the Subic Bay area; and,

4)5) The remaining balance to complete the Board shall be composed of representatives from the business and investment sectors.

"xxx."

*Section 2. Repealing Clause* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

*Section 3. Separability Clause* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act, or any portion thereof, or the application of such section, provision, or portion to any person, group, or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such section, provision, or portion thereof to other persons, groups, or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

*Section 4. Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*