

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6318



**INTRODUCED BY REP. JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA, REP. RUDY S. CAOAGDAN, DPA,
AND REP. JOSELITO "JOEL" S. SACDALAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Cotabato is endowed with rich natural resources, highly diverse cultures, and is a strategic trading site in central Mindanao. It is considered as Minadanao's food basket. Among its major natural assets are the Mt. Apo Natural Park, the Pulangi River, and the vast Liguasan Marsh which supplies a bounty of freshwater fish and organic fertilizer and is considered as a possible source of natural gas.

The province's economy is traditionally based on farm production activities and agribusiness that it substantially depends on the topography and geological features of the land. Majority of the communities significantly rely on natural resources for subsistence and livelihood that its viability is indispensable for the cultural survival and well-being of communities, and sustainable development considerations — including human health and safety aspects.

Under EO 192, s. 1987, the Department of Environment and natural Resources (DENR) is the primary government agency responsible for conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, specifically forest and grazing lands, mineral resources, including those in reservation and watershed areas, and lands of public domain. The Department is likewise responsible for the licensing and regulation of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos. EO 192 also provides for the creation of Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) offices which is responsible for the implementation of DENR policies, programs, project and activities and the enforcement of ENR laws and regulations in the district level

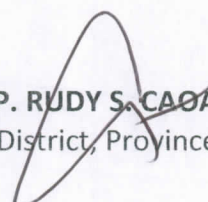
Apart from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), the DENR in the Province of Cotabato is presently distributed into two (2) CENR's which is composed of CENRO Midsayap and CENRO Matalam, serving the three legislative districts of the Province. Given the situation and the overwhelming need to promote

equitable access to natural resources and enhance its contribution in achieving economic and social development in the Province of Cotabato, it is necessary to reorganize the existing two (2) Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices into three (3) separate CENR offices to provide a responsive environment and natural resources services to the general public.

Hence the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA
3rd District, Province of Cotabato



REP. RUDY S. CAOAGDAN, DPA
2nd District, Province of Cotabato



REP. JOSELITO "JOEL" S. SACDALAN
1st District, Province of Cotabato

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (CENR)
OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRESIDENT ROXAS AND REAPPORTIONING THE
CURRENT CENR OFFICES IN THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **Section 1.** *Establishment* - There shall be Community Environment and Natural
2 Resources Office established in each of the legislative districts of the Province of
3 Cotabato to be apportioned as follows:
4

5 a) *CENRO Midsayap* – shall be composed of the Municipalities of Midsayap,
6 Aleosan, Libungan, Pigcawayan, Alamada, and Pikit, all in the First
7 Legislative District, Province of Cotabato;
8

9 b) *CENRO President Roxas* – shall be composed of the City of Kidapawan and
10 the Municipalities of President Roxas, Makilala, Magpet, Antipas, and
11 Arakan all in the Second Legislative District, Province of Cotabato; and
12

13 c) *CENRO Matalam* – shall be composed of the Municipalities of Matalam,
14 Mlang, Kabacan, Carmen, Banisilan, and Tulunan, all in the Third Legislative
15 District, Province of Cotabato
16

17 **Section 2.** *Rules and Regulations* - The Secretary of Environment and Natural
18 Resources shall issue rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective
19 implementation of this Act.
20

21 **Section 3.** *Appropriations* - The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources
22 shall immediately include in the programs of the Department the operationalization
23 of the CENR Offices in the Province of Cotabato, the initial funding of which shall be
24 charged against the current year's appropriations of the DENR. Thereafter, the
25 amount necessary for the continued operation of the said CENR offices shall be
26 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

27
28 **Section 4.** *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
29 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
30 inconsistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended or modified
31 accordingly.

32
33 **Section 5.** *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

34
35 Approved.