

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1232

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides for the autonomy of the Cordillera region, as provided in Section 15 of Article X which states:

There shall be created autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordilleras consisting of provinces, cities, municipalities, and geographic areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures, and other relevant characteristics within the framework of this Constitution and the national sovereignty as well as territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines.

Thirty-two years since the promulgation of the Constitution, the region of Cordillera has yet to achieve real autonomy. The establishment of an autonomous region of Cordillera is important to provide a basic structure of government in the region and to secure the identity and cultural heritage of the people of Cordillera.

The Cordillera Administrative Region is home to a number of indigenous tribes collectively known as the *Igorot*. There are 12 ethnolinguistic groups in the Cordillera Administrative Region, namely the Applai, Balangao (sometimes known as Baliwon), Bontok, Kankanaey, Iwak, Karao, Ibaloy, Kalanguya, Ifugao, Isnag, Kalinga and Tingguian.¹ According to data from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, there are 1,252,962 indigenous peoples residing in the region.² This is a huge percentage of the total recorded population of the region in 2015 which was recorded at 1,722,006.³

¹ <http://ncipcar.ph/index.php/about-ips>

² <https://www.ncipro67.com.ph/indigenous-peoples-of-the-philippines/>

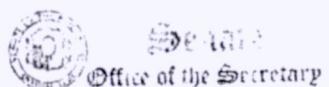
³ <https://psa.gov.ph/content/population-cordillera-administrative-region-based-2015-census-population>

Through the establishment of an Autonomous Region of the Cordillera, the people from the Cordilleras will have the opportunity to decide on what policies and programs will best fit the region and at the same time have the freedom to pursue their political, economic, social and cultural development within the framework of national sovereignty and in consonance with their local practices and cultural heritage and identity. With genuine regional autonomy, it is our belief that underdevelopment and poverty in the Cordilleras can be more effectively addressed.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI



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1 **AN ACT**

2 **ESTABLISHING THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA**

3

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

6 **PREAMBLE**

7 We, the Cordillerans, imploring the will of Divine Providence, exercising our
8 fundamental and Constitutional right to self-determination, faithful to the pursuit of our
9 forebears for the protection, conservation and development of our patrimony and
10 cultural heritage, in order to secure for ourselves and our posterity a region of peace
11 and prosperity founded on truth, fairness, freedom, justice, love and solidarity through
12 an Autonomous Region that shall ensure our human development, and our active
13 participation as citizens in the affairs of a united Philippine State, do proclaim this
14 Organic Act of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera.

15

16 **ARTICLE I**

17 **NAME AND PURPOSE**

18 SECTION 1. **Name.** – There is hereby established an autonomous region in the
19 Cordillera to be known as the "Autonomous Region of the Cordillera."

20

21 SEC. 2. **Purpose.** – The purpose of this law is to establish an effective political
22 entity, provide for its basic structure of government in recognition of the justness and
23 cause of the Cordillerans and to secure their identity, posterity, and allow for
24 meaningful governance.

1

2 **ARTICLE II**

3 **AREA OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA**

4 SEC. 3. ***Area of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera.*** – The area of
5 the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera (ARC) shall consist of the city and provinces
6 that shall vote favorably in the plebiscite called for the ratification of this Organic Act
7 pursuant to Section 18, Article X of the 1987 Constitution. The area of the plebiscite
8 shall be the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province,
9 and the chartered City of Baguio.

10

11 SEC. 4. ***Cordilleran Identity.*** – The term “*Cordilleran*” shall apply to all citizens
12 of the Philippines who are residents for at least one (1) year within the ARC.

13

14 **ARTICLE III**

15 **DECLARATION OF POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES**

16 SEC. 5. ***Integral Part of the Republic.*** – The ARC shall remain an integral and
17 inseparable part of the national territory of the Philippines as defined by the
18 Constitution and existing laws. The autonomous region shall be governed and
19 administered in accordance with the laws enacted by the Regional Assembly and by this
20 Organic Act.

21 SEC. 6. ***Equitable Share in the National Budget and Development Assistance.*** – The national government shall provide the autonomous region a
22 proportionate and equitable share in the annual national budget and foreign assisted
23 projects in addition to other financial assistance, support and subsidies to accelerate its
24 development. Whenever the Commission on Audit finds that the internal controls set
25 up in the region are inadequate, it may require pre-audit and shall likewise conduct
26 seminars in the communities concerned explaining the benefits and proper use of the
27 internal revenue allotments.

28 SEC. 7. ***Self-governance.*** – In the exercise of their right to genuine autonomy
29 and meaningful self-governance, Cordillerans are free to pursue their political,
30 economic, social and cultural development within the framework of national sovereignty
31 and in accordance with the Constitution.

1 SEC. 8. ***Democratic Political System.*** – The Regional Government is a
2 democratic political system allowing the people to participate in the political processes.

3 SEC. 9. ***Prior and Preferential Right.*** – Cordillerans shall have prior and
4 preferential right to the natural, material, and fiscal resources of the ARC.

5 SEC. 10. ***Fundamental Rights and Duties of People.*** – The fundamental
6 rights and duties of the people in the ARC are those defined in the Constitution, this
7 Organic Act and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

8 SEC. 11. ***Rights to Initiatives, Consultations, Referenda and Plebiscites.***
9 – Without prejudice to other rights guaranteed by the Constitution, the rights of the
10 people of the ARC to initiate measures for the passage, amendment or repeal of
11 regional or local legislation; to be consulted on matters that affect their welfare; to call
12 for a referendum on important issues affecting their lives; and, to recall regional or local
13 officials as provided by Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, also known as the "Local/
14 Government Code of 1991," are hereby recognized.

15 SEC. 12. ***Accountability of Public Officers.*** – The Regional Government, to
16 meet the priority needs and service requirements of its constituents shall adopt the
17 principles of integrity, transparency and accountability in order to ensure an
18 accountable, efficient and dynamic organizational structure.

19

20 SEC. 13. ***Upholding Human Rights.*** – The Regional Government shall take
21 measures to prevent torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment, illegal
22 detention and extra-judicial killings.

23 SEC. 14. ***Establishment of Peace Zones.*** – The Regional Government adheres
24 to the policy of peace and shall establish peace zones within the region.

25 SEC. 15. ***Devolution of Powers.*** – The Regional Government shall adopt a
26 policy on local autonomy whereby regional powers shall be devolved to local
27 government units (LGUs) particularly in areas of education, health, human resources,
28 science and technology, and people empowerment. Until a law implementing this
29 provision is enacted by the Regional Assembly, the provisions of RA 7160 shall continue
30 to apply to all provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangay within ARC.

31 The regional assembly shall not pass any law to diminish, lessen or reduce the
32 powers, functions, and shares in the internal revenue allotment of the said local
33 government units as provided by RA 7160.

1 SEC. 16. ***Sustainable Use and Management of Resources.*** – The Regional
2 Government shall share with the national government in the exploration, development
3 and utilization of its natural resources, conservation and protection of natural resources
4 by promoting the sustainable use and management thereof and adopts environmentally
5 sound and appropriate technology in the management of natural resources. The use of
6 renewable energy shall be promoted for power generation.

7 SEC. 17. ***Community Responsive Education.*** – The Regional Government
8 shall integrate in the educational system a subject that responds to the needs of the
9 Cordillera communities which respects and promotes Cordilleran knowledge, core
10 values, systems, institutions, culture and practice; encourages the use of languages and
11 methods of education; promotes science and appropriate technology and
12 methodologies that encourage creative and critical thinking of the Cordilleran.

13

14 SEC. 18. ***Protection and Empowerment.*** – The Regional Government shall
15 formulate plans and programs for the empowerment of the youth and guarantees their
16 effective participation and representation in all aspects of public affairs. Laws shall be
17 enacted, and measures adopted to protect women and children against all forms of
18 neglect, cruelty, and exploitation which are harmful to their moral, physical, or mental
19 health.

20 SEC. 19. ***Regional Arrangements.*** – The Regional Government shall pursue a
21 policy of interregional development planning, coordination and mutual cooperation in
22 order to sustain the use, development as well as the protection and conservation of its
23 resources which benefits other regions.

24 SEC. 20. ***Equal Access and Non-discrimination.*** – The Regional Government
25 shall ensure equal access by Cordillerans to resources, employment opportunities and
26 services regardless of ethnic origin, gender, language, political conviction, economic,
27 social status or religious belief.

28 SEC. 21. ***Social Justice.*** – The Regional Government shall minimize disparities
29 between the rich and the poor, rural and urban areas within the region by providing,
30 maintaining and ensuring the equitable delivery of basic and responsive health
31 programs, quality education, appropriate services, livelihood opportunities, affordable
32 and progressive housing projects and water resource development.

33 SEC. 22. ***Foreign Investments.*** – The Regional Government shall provide
34 incentives to investors, corporations and other businesses, but shall adopt measures to

1 prevent the abuse of human rights and exploitation of natural resources. To this end,
2 the Regional Government shall adopt local and international safeguards to review and
3 audit the impact of all forms of foreign aid, loans special projects and the like.

4 SEC. 23. ***Customary Laws.*** – Existing customary justice and laws on personal,
5 family and property relations shall be respected.

6

7 **ARTICLE IV**

8 **THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE CORDILLERA**

9 **A. Powers of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera**

10 SEC. 24. ***Powers and Functions.*** – The Regional Government shall exercise
11 powers and functions necessary for the proper governance and development of all
12 provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays within the autonomous region consistent
13 with the declared constitutional policy on local autonomy and decentralization:
14 *Provided:* That nothing in this Act shall be construed as to authorize the diminution of
15 the powers and functions already enjoyed by local government units.

16 SEC. 25. ***Devolved Powers.*** – The Autonomous Region of the Cordillera is a
17 corporate entity with jurisdiction in all matters devolved to it by the Constitution and
18 this Organic Act as herein enumerated:

19 (1) Administrative organization:

20 a. Declaration of holidays;
21 b. Public administration and bureaucracy for the region; and
22 c. Identification, generation, and mobilization of international human resources
23 for capacity-building and other activities involving the same within the region.

24 (2) Creation of sources of revenues:

25 a. Authority to regulate power generation, transmission and distribution
26 operating exclusively in the autonomous region; and
27 b. Imposition of taxes except those which are already taxed by the national and
28 local government.

29 (3) Ancestral domain and natural resources:

30 a. Protection of the ancestral domain and ancestral lands of indigenous cultural
31 communities (ICCs) consistent with IPRA.
32 b. Declaration of nature reserves and aquatic parks, forests, watershed
33 reservations, and other protected areas in the autonomous region.

1 c. Authority, power, and right to the control and supervision over the
2 exploration, utilization, development, and protection of the lands, forests,
3 water, minerals and other natural resources within the autonomous region in
4 accordance with the Constitution and the pertinent provisions of this Organic
5 Act including strategic minerals such as uranium, petroleum, and other fossil
6 fuels, mineral oil, and all sources of potential energy.

7 d. Regulation of small-scale mining to the end that the ecological balance, safety
8 and health, and the interests of the affected communities, and the local
9 government units of the place where such operations are conducted are duly
10 protected and safeguarded.

11 (4) Urban and rural planning development:

- 12 a. Adoption and implementation of a comprehensive land use program;
- 13 b. Land management, land distribution, and agricultural land use
14 reclassification; and
- 15 c. Authority to conduct cadastral survey in coordination with the Department of
16 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

17 (5) Economic, social and tourism development:

- 18 a. Establishment of transportation and communication facilities;
- 19 b. Promotion of tourism within the autonomous region; and
- 20 c. Regulation of games and amusement operations within ARC.

21 (6) Educational policies in skills training, research and scholarships.

22 (7) Preservation and development of the cultural heritage, establishment of its own
23 libraries and museums, and declaration of historical and cultural sites, in
24 coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA); and

25 (8) Such other matters for the promotion of the general welfare of its inhabitants.

27 **B. Intergovernmental Relations**

28 SEC. 26. ***General Supervision.*** – Consistent with the principle of autonomy,
29 the President shall exercise general supervision over the Regional Government to
30 ensure that laws are faithfully executed.

31 SEC. 27. ***Regional Line Agencies.*** – Regional Line Agencies shall continue to
32 exist without diminution of their mandated authority. Regional line agency officials and
33 employees shall continue to be paid by the national government. There shall be no
34 diminution of their compensation and other benefits due its officials and employees.
35 Existing assets and properties of the regional line agencies and offices shall remain
36 under their custody and accountability.

1 SEC. 28. **Tenure of Civil Service Employees.** – Except for just cause and after
2 due process, officials and employees of the regional line agencies and offices in the
3 region shall not be laid off, dismissed or removed as a result of any reorganization
4 attendant to the establishment of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera.

5 SEC. 29. **Priority in Hiring.** – Officials and employees of the regional
6 autonomous government and the regional line agencies in the autonomous region shall
7 be hired in accordance with appropriate civil service rules and regulations, but priority
8 shall be accorded to qualified Cordillerans.

9 SEC. 30. **Appointment to Third Level Positions.** – The Regional Governor
10 shall fill up third level positions from among at least three (3) recommendees of the
11 Regional Personnel Selection Board (PSB) that shall be duly constituted.

12 SEC. 31. **Budget Preparation.** – Regional line agencies and offices shall
13 prepare their respective budgets separate and distinct from the budget of the Regional
14 Government. Their budgets shall however be furnished to the regional government to
15 ensure that plans and priorities of the autonomous region are harmonized and properly
16 considered in the budgeting processes.

17 SEC. 32. **Management of ODA Funds.** – The autonomous region may avail of
18 Official Development Assistance (ODA)-funded projects and other foreign financial
19 grants or donations and shall undertake these projects through the regional line
20 agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), state colleges and
21 universities, local government units or whichever is deemed appropriate.

22 SEC. 33. **Government Owned and Controlled Corporations.** – Government
23 Owned and Controlled Corporations such as the Government Service Insurance System,
24 the Social Security System, the Pagtutulungan-Ikaw, Bangko Industriya't Gobyerno
25 (PAG-IBIG), PhilHealth and others shall continue to be governed by their respective
26 charters and other pertinent laws.

27 SEC. 34. **Autonomy of Local Government Units.** – Local government units
28 shall continue to be independent from each other and shall have the same set of local
29 officials and employees and shall enjoy autonomy and continue to exercise the powers
30 granted them under the Local Government Code and other existing laws. The Local
31 Government Code shall apply to all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays in the
32 autonomous region until the Regional Assembly shall enact a regional Local
33 Government Code. Nothing herein provided shall be construed in any manner as to

1 diminish the powers and functions as well as benefits and privileges already being
2 enjoyed by the local government units.

3 **SEC. 35. *Supervision of Local Government Units through the Regional Governor.*** – Consistent with the basic policy on local autonomy, the President, through
4 the Regional Governor shall exercise supervision over LGUs in the autonomous region
5 to ensure that their acts are within the scope of their prescribed powers and functions.
6

7 **SEC. 36. *Revenues and Taxes Accruing to LGUs.*** – Revenues, taxes, fees
8 and charges generated by the local government units and the regional government
9 from their respective local tax ordinances shall exclusively accrue to them.

10 **SEC. 37. *Just Share in National Taxes.*** – The local government units in the
11 autonomous region, including the Regional Government, shall have a just share in the
12 national taxes and applicable revenues which shall be automatically released to them.

13 **SEC. 38. *Equitable Share in the Utilization of Resources.*** – The local
14 government units in the autonomous region including the Regional Government shall be
15 entitled to an equitable share in the proceeds of the utilization and development of the
16 national wealth within their respective areas, in the manner provided by law and this
17 Organic Act.

18 **SEC. 39. *City Charters.*** – Chartered cities within the autonomous region shall
19 be governed primarily by their charters.

20 **SEC. 40. *Creation of Special Political Subdivisions.*** – Special metropolitan
21 political subdivisions may, by law, be created by the Regional Assembly, subject to a
22 plebiscite. The component cities and municipalities shall retain their basic autonomy and
23 shall be entitled to their own local executive and legislative bodies. The jurisdiction of
24 the metropolitan authority that will thereby be created shall be limited to basic services
25 requiring coordination.

26 **SEC. 41. *Right of LGU's to Aggregate.*** – Local government units in the
27 autonomous region may group themselves, consolidate or coordinate their efforts,
28 services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them in accordance with
29 law.

30 **ARTICLE V**

31 **ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENT –
32 THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE, VACANCIES AND SUCCESSION,
33 AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1
2 SEC. 42. ***Elective Officials.*** – The elective officials of the Autonomous Region of
3 the Cordillera are the (a) Regional Governor, (b) Regional Vice-Governor, and (c)
4 Members of the Regional Assembly.

5 SEC. 43. ***Qualifications.*** – (a) Candidates for Regional Governor and Vice-
6 Governor positions must be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, at least
7 twenty-five (25) years of age on election day, a registered voter in the region and a
8 resident thereof for a period of at least one (1) year immediately preceding the day of
9 election, able to read and write Filipino or English; (b) Candidates for the position of
10 Member of the Regional Assembly must be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran,
11 at least twenty five (25) years of age on election day, a registered voter in the
12 provincial district or city and a resident thereof for a period of at least one (1) year
13 immediately preceding the day of election, able to read and write Filipino or English or
14 any other local language in the region.

15 SEC. 44. ***Disqualifications.*** – In addition to the disqualifications provided under
16 Book I, Title Two, Chapter 1, Section 40 of the Local Government Code, candidates for
17 Regional Governor, Vice-Governor and members of the Regional Assembly must not be
18 related to the incumbent elected regional officials within the fourth degree of
19 consanguinity or affinity.

20 SEC. 45. ***Manner of Election.*** – The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor,
21 who shall belong to the same political party, shall be elected at large by direct vote of
22 the registered voters of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera. A vote to the
23 Regional Governor shall be counted as a vote to the Regional Vice-Governor.

24 (a) Each province and city shall elect their own representatives to the Regional
25 Assembly. Any highly urbanized city in the autonomous region is entitled to four (4)
26 representatives to the Regional Assembly. Each province shall be entitled to four (4)
27 representatives, two (2) per provincial district, and one (1) for the component city.
28 *Provided:* That any component city created after the effectivity of this Organic Act shall
29 be entitled to representation to the Regional Assembly as may be provided by law.

30 (b) Unless otherwise provided, the regular election of the Regional Governor,
31 Vice Governor, and members of the Regional Assembly shall be held on the second
32 Monday of May.

1 SEC. 46. **Term of Office.** – (a) The term of office of all elective regional officials
2 elected after the effectivity of this Organic Act shall be three (3) years which shall begin
3 at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following the day of election and shall end at
4 noon of the same date three (3) years thereafter. No regional governor, vice-governor,
5 or member of the regional assembly shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive
6 terms.

7 (b) Voluntary renunciation of, or removal from, office for any length of time shall not be
8 considered as an interruption in the continuity of the service for the full term for which
9 officials were elected.

10 SEC. 47. **Oath of Office.** – The Regional Governor, Vice-Governor and Members
11 of the Regional Assembly on assuming office shall take the following oath or
12 affirmation:

13 *"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my
14 duties as Governor/Vice-Governor/Member of the Regional Assembly of the
15 Autonomous Region of the Cordillera, preserve and defend the Constitution of
16 the Republic of the Philippines and the Organic Act of the Autonomous Region of
17 the Cordillera, execute these laws, do justice to all and consecrate myself to the
18 service of the nation and the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera. So help me
19 God." (In case of affirmation, the last sentence will be omitted.)*

20 SEC. 48. **Prohibitions.** – (a) The Regional Governor and Vice-Governor shall
21 not, during their tenure, engage in the practice of any profession or hold any other
22 office or employment, except as otherwise provided in this Act.

23 (b) The spouse and other relatives by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth
24 civil degree of the Regional Governor and the Regional Vice-Governor shall not, during
25 their tenure, be appointed officers or employees of the Regional Government, except as
26 members of their confidential staff.

27 (c) No member of the Regional Assembly may hold any other office or
28 employment in the government or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof,
29 including government-owned or controlled corporations, or their subsidiaries, during
30 their term without forfeiting their seat. Neither shall any member of the regional
31 assembly be appointed to any office which has been created or the emoluments
32 whereof increased by the Regional Assembly during the term for which such member
33 was elected.

1 (d) The Regional Governor, and Regional Vice-Governor, and members of the
2 Regional Assembly shall not personally appear as counsel before any court of justice or
3 before the Electoral Commission or quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies.

4 (e) The Regional Governor, Regional Vice-Governor, and members of the
5 Regional Assembly shall not participate directly or indirectly in any contract with or in
6 any franchise or special privilege granted by the Regional Government or any
7 subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including any government-owned or-
8 controlled corporations or in any of their subsidiaries. They shall not intervene in any
9 matter before any office of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera for their pecuniary
10 benefit or where they may be called upon to act on account of their office.

11 SEC. 49. **Vacancies and Succession.** – (a) In the event that the position of the
12 Regional Governor becomes permanently vacant, the Regional Vice-Governor shall
13 automatically become the Regional Governor.

14 (b) If the position of the Regional Vice-Governor becomes permanently vacant,
15 the member of the assembly belonging to the same political party, garnering the
16 highest percentage of votes in the district represented shall become the vice-governor
17 or in case of permanent disability, the second highest shall assume said position.

18 (c) In case of a permanent vacancy in the assembly where automatic succession
19 does not apply, the Regional Governor shall appoint to the position so vacated the
20 nominee of the political party to which the member who caused the vacancy belonged
21 at the time of such members' election. If the one causing the vacancy does not belong
22 to any political party, the Regional Governor shall appoint the nominee of the majority
23 of the members of the assembly. *Provided:* That the appointee has all the qualifications
24 and none of the disqualifications as provided by this Organic Act. *Provided further:* That
25 in both cases the appointee comes from the same district.

26 (d) For purposes of this article, a permanent vacancy arises when the incumbent
27 elective official concerned dies, voluntarily resigns, is removed from office, fills up a
28 higher vacant office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, or is otherwise
29 permanently incapacitated to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the
30 office.

31 SEC. 50. **Temporary Vacancies.** – (a) When the Regional Governor is
32 temporarily incapacitated to perform his duties for physical or legal reasons such as
33 leave of absence, travel abroad, and suspension from office, the regional vice governor
34 shall automatically exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the

1 former except the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees which can only be
2 exercised if the period of temporary incapacity exceeds thirty (30) working days.

3 (b) Said temporary incapacity shall terminate upon submission to the Regional
4 Assembly of a written declaration by the Regional Governor that he has reported back
5 to office. In cases where the temporary incapacity is due to legal causes, the regional
6 official concerned shall also submit necessary documents showing that said legal causes
7 no longer exist.

8 (c) When the incumbent Regional Governor is traveling within the country but
9 outside his territorial jurisdiction for a period not exceeding three (3) consecutive days,
10 he may designate in writing, the officer-in-charge of the said office. Such authorization
11 shall specify the powers and functions that the regional official concerned shall exercise
12 except the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees.

13 (d) In the event, however, that the Regional Governor concerned fails or refuses
14 to issue such authorization, the Regional Vice-Governor shall have the right to assume
15 the powers, duties and functions of the said office on the fourth day of absence of the
16 Regional Governor, subject to the limitations provided in subsection c, hereof.

17 (e) Except as provided above, the Regional Governor shall in no case authorize
18 any regional official to assume the powers, duties and functions of the office, other
19 than the Regional Vice-Governor or the highest-ranking Member of the Regional
20 Assembly, as the case may be.

21 SEC. 51. ***Approval of Leaves of Absence.*** – Leave of absence of elective
22 officials of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera shall be approved as follows:

23 (a) Applications for leave of absence of regional officials, provincial governor,
24 mayor of a highly urbanized city or an independent component city shall be approved
25 by the Regional Governor or his duly authorized representative;

26 (b) Applications for leave of absence of other officials and employees other than
27 those enumerated above shall follow those stipulated in the Local Government Code;
28 and

29 (c) Applications for leave of the Regional Governor shall be approved by the
30 President.

31 SEC. 52. ***Compensation.*** – (a) Unless otherwise provided by law, the Regional
32 Governor and Regional Vice-Governor shall receive an annual salary equivalent to that
33 of a department secretary and undersecretary, respectively, of the national

1 government, which shall not be decreased during their tenure. No increase in the salary
2 of the Regional Governor and Regional Vice-Governor shall take effect until after the
3 expiration of the term of the Regional Governor and Regional Vice-Governor approving
4 the same.

5 (b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the Regional Speaker shall receive an
6 annual salary equivalent to that of the Regional Governor and members of the Regional
7 Assembly shall receive an annual salary equivalent to the salary of the Regional Vice-
8 Governor. No increase in salary provided for by law shall take effect until after the
9 expiration of the term of office of all members of the Regional Assembly approving the
10 same.

11 (c) All regional elective officials shall not receive, during their tenure, any other
12 emoluments from the government.

13 SEC. 53. **Accountability.** – (a) *Disclosure.* All regional officials shall, upon their
14 assumption of office, make a full disclosure of their financial and business interests,
15 including those of their spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of
16 age living in their households. Any member who has a potential conflict of interest that
17 may arise from the measures filed shall notify the regional assembly. This section shall
18 be governed by R.A. 6713 or the Code of conduct and ethical standards for public
19 officials and employees.

20 (b) *Governing law.* Discipline of Regional Elective Officials shall be governed by
21 Chapter 4, Title Two of Book I of R.A 7160 and other applicable laws. Discipline of
22 Members of the Regional Assembly shall be governed by their internal rules.

23 (c) *Recall.* Regional elective officials may be subject to recall proceedings as
24 provided for by Chapter 5, Title Two of Book I of R.A. 7160 and other applicable laws.

25

26 **ARTICLE VI**

27 **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

28 SEC. 54. **Executive Authority.** – The executive power in the region shall be
29 vested in a Regional Governor. He shall exercise such powers and perform such duties
30 and functions as provided by this Organic Act and other laws.

31 SEC. 55. **Scope of Executive Authority.** – As chief executive of the Regional
32 Government, the Regional Governor shall exercise control and supervision over all
33 programs, projects, services and activities of the Regional Government and supervision

1 over regional line agencies and local government units within the autonomous region
2 subject to existing laws.

3 SEC. 56. ***State of the Region Address.*** – The Regional Governor shall deliver
4 the State of the Region Address to the Regional Assembly at the opening of its regular
5 sessions.

6 SEC. 57. ***Submission of Regional Budget.*** – The Regional Governor shall
7 submit the proposed budget to the Regional Assembly within thirty (30) days from the
8 opening of every regular session, as the basis of the regional appropriations bill, budget
9 of expenditures and sources of financing, including receipts from existing and proposed
10 revenue measures.

11 SEC. 58. ***Administrative Support.*** – The Regional Governor and the different
12 regional departments shall have sufficient administrative and support staff to efficiently
13 and effectively carry out their mandates and the purposes of the regional government.

14 SEC. 59. ***Mandatory Staff.*** – The regional autonomous government shall have
15 the following mandatory staff: (1) Regional Executive Secretary, (2) Regional
16 Accountant, (3) Regional Budget Officer, (4) Regional Administrator, (5) Regional Legal
17 Officer, (6) Regional Treasurer, and (7) Regional General Services Officer. In addition
18 thereto, the Regional Governor may, subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly
19 and availability of funds, create other offices deemed necessary.

20 The Regional Executive Secretary and the heads of the various regional offices
21 and employees under the executive department shall be appointed by the Regional
22 Governor. The appointment of the heads of regional offices requires the concurrence of
23 the majority of the members of the Regional Assembly and compliance to civil service
24 law, rules and regulations and this Organic Act. The Regional Assembly shall act on said
25 appointment within fifteen (15) days from the date of submission otherwise the same
26 shall be deemed confirmed.

27 The rank and salary grade level of the heads of the different regional
28 departments shall be equivalent to the regional directors of regional line agencies. They
29 shall receive compensation, allowances and other emoluments and benefits allowed by
30 law or ordinance. With the exception of the Regional Executive Secretary, the heads of
31 the regional departments shall be mandatory.

32 The qualifications of regional appointive officials, their duties and functions, are as
33 follows:

1 **1) Regional Executive Secretary**

- 2 (a) The Regional Executive Secretary of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera
3 shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral character, a
4 holder of a college degree preferably in law, administration or any other related
5 course from a recognized college or university, and must have acquired
6 supervisory or managerial experience for at least five (5) years.
- 7 (b) The term of office of the Regional Executive Secretary shall be co-terminus with
8 that of the appointing authority.
- 9 (c) The Regional Executive Secretary shall, subject to the control and supervision of
10 the Regional Governor, carry out the following functions:
- 11 1. Directly assist the Regional Governor in the management of the affairs
12 pertaining to the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera;
- 13 2. Implement directives, orders and decisions of the Regional Governor;
- 14 3. Exercise supervision and control over the various units in the Office of the
15 Regional Governor including their internal administrative requirements;
- 16 4. Exercise supervision, in behalf of the Regional Governor, over the various
17 agencies under the Office of the Regional Governor;
- 18 5. Provide overall coordination in the operation of the Regional Executive
19 Office;
- 20 6. Determine and assign matters to the appropriate units in the Office of the
21 Regional Governor;
- 22 7. Act on matters referred to the Office of the Regional Governor coming
23 from the various regional offices and agencies of the government;
- 24 8. Provide consultative, research, fact-finding and advisory service to the
25 Regional Governor;
- 26 9. Assist the Regional Governor in the performance of functions pertaining
27 to legislation;
- 28 10. Assist the Regional Governor in the administration of special projects;
- 29 11. Take charge of matters pertaining to protocol in the Regional
30 Government and ceremonial functions;
- 31 12. Provide secretarial and clerical services for the Regional Governor and
32 other bodies;
- 33 13. Promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
34 objectives, policies and functions of the Office of the Regional Governor;
35 and
- 36 14. Perform such other functions as the Regional Governor may direct.

1 **2) Regional Accountant**

- 2 (a) The Regional Accountant shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of
3 good moral character, certified public accountant, and must have acquired
4 experience in the treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years.
- 5 (b) The regional accountant shall take charge of both the accounting and internal
6 audit services of the autonomous region and shall:
- 7 1. Install and maintain an internal audit system in the autonomous region;
8 2. Prepare and submit financial statements to the Regional Governor and to
9 the Regional Assembly;
- 10 3. Apprise the Regional Assembly and other government officials on the
11 financial condition and operations of the autonomous region;
- 12 4. Certify to the availability of budgetary allotment to which expenditures
13 and obligations may be properly charged;
- 14 5. Review supporting documents before preparation of vouchers to
15 determine completeness of requirements;
- 16 6. Prepare statements of cash advances, liquidation, salaries, allowances,
17 reimbursements and remittances pertaining to the autonomous region;
- 18 7. Prepare statements of journal vouchers and liquidation of the same and
19 other adjustments related thereto;
- 20 8. Post individual disbursements to the subsidiary ledger and index cards;
- 21 9. Maintain individual ledgers for officials and employees of the autonomous
22 region pertaining to payrolls and deductions;
- 23 10. Record and post in index cards details of purchased furniture, fixtures,
24 and equipment, including disposal thereof, if any;
- 25 11. Account for all issued requests for obligations and maintain and keep all
26 records and reports related thereto;
- 27 12. Prepare journals and the analysis of obligations and maintain and keep all
28 records and reports related thereto; and
- 29 13. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions
30 as may be provided by law or ordinance.

32 **3) Regional Budget Officer**

- 33 (a) The Regional Budget Officer shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a
34 Cordilleran, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in
35 accounting, economics, public administration or any related course from a
36 recognized college or university, first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent,

1 and must have acquired experience in government budgeting for at least five (5)
2 years.

3 (b) The budget officer shall take charge of the budget office and shall:

- 4 1. Prepare forms, orders, and circulars embodying instructions on budgetary
5 and appropriation matters for the signature of the Regional Governor;
- 6 2. Review and consolidate the budget proposals of different departments
7 and offices of the Regional Government;
- 8 3. Assist the Regional Governor in the preparation of the budget and during
9 budget hearings;
- 10 4. Study and evaluate budgetary implications of proposed legislation and
11 submit comments and recommendations thereon;
- 12 5. Submit periodic budgetary reports to the Department of Budget and
13 Management;
- 14 6. Coordinate with the treasurer, accountant, and the planning officer for the
15 purpose of budgeting;
- 16 7. Assist the Regional Assembly in reviewing the approved budgets of the
17 provincial and highly urbanized cities;
- 18 8. Coordinate with the regional planning officer in the formulation of the
19 regional development plan; and
- 20 9. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions
21 as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

23 **4) Regional Administrator**

24 (a) The Regional Administrator shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran,
25 of good moral character, holder of a college degree preferably in law, public
26 administration or any other related course from a recognized college or university
27 and must have acquired experience in management and administration work for
28 at least five (5) years.

29 (b) The term of office of the Regional Administrator shall be co-terminus with that of
30 the appointing authority.

31 (c) Subject to the control and supervision of the Regional Governor, the Regional
32 Administrator shall:

- 33 1. Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the Regional
34 Governor, implement the same particularly those which have to do with
35 the management and administration-related programs and projects which

- the Regional Governor is empowered to implement and which the Regional Assembly is empowered to provide under this Organic Act;
2. Assist in the coordination of the work of all the officials of the autonomous region, under the supervision, direction, and control of the Regional Governor, and for this purpose, may convene the chiefs of offices and other officials of the autonomous region;
 3. Establish and maintain a sound personnel program for the autonomous region designed to promote career development and uphold the merit principle in the local government service;
 4. Conduct a continuing organizational development of the autonomous region with the end in view of instituting effective administrative reforms;
 5. Be in the frontline of the delivery of administrative support services, particularly those related to the situations during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;
 6. Recommend to the Regional Assembly and advise the Regional Governor, as the case may be, on all other matters relative to the management and administration of the regional autonomous government; and
 7. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or by ordinance.

5) Regional Legal Officer

- (a) The Regional Legal Officer shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of good moral character, member of the Philippine Bar, and must have been in the practice of law for at least five (5) years.
- (b) The term of office of the Regional Legal Officer shall be co-terminus with that of the appointing authority.
- (c) The Regional Legal Officer shall be the chief legal counsel of the regional autonomous government, shall take charge of the office of legal services, and shall perform the following:
 1. Formulate measures for the consideration of the Regional Assembly and provide legal assistance and support to the Regional Governor;
 2. Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the Regional Governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with programs and projects related to legal services which the Regional Governor is empowered to implement and which the Regional Assembly is empowered to provide under this Organic Act;

- 1 3. Recommend measures and advise the Regional Governor on all other
2 matters related to upholding the rule of law;
- 3 4. Be in the frontline of protecting human rights and prosecuting any
4 violations thereof, particularly those which occur during and in the
5 aftermath of man-made or natural disasters or calamities;
- 6 5. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions
7 as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.
- 8 6. In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the legal officer shall:
- 9 i. Represent the regional autonomous government in all civil actions and
10 special proceedings wherein the autonomous region or any official
11 thereof, in his official capacity, is a party;
- 12 ii. When required by the Regional Governor, draft ordinances, contracts,
13 bonds, leases and other instruments, involving any interest of the
14 autonomous region and provide comments and recommendations on
15 any instrument already drawn;
- 16 iii. Render opinion in writing on any question of law when requested to
17 do so by the Regional Governor;
- 18 iv. Investigate or cause to be investigated any official or employee of the
19 Regional Government for administrative neglect or misconduct in
20 office and recommend appropriate action to the Regional Governor;
- 21 v. Investigate or cause to be investigated any person, firm or
22 corporation holding any franchise or exercising any public privilege for
23 failure to comply with any term or condition in the grant of such
24 franchise or privilege by the Regional Government, and
25 recommending appropriate action to the Regional Governor;
- 26 vi. When directed by the Regional Governor, initiate and prosecute in the
27 interest of the autonomous region any civil action on any bond, lease
28 or other contract upon any breach or violation thereof; and
- 29 vii. Review and submit recommendations on ordinances approved and
30 execute orders issued.

31

32 **6) Regional Treasurer**

- 33 (a) The Regional Treasurer shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a Cordilleran, of
34 good moral character, holder of a college degree preferably in commerce, public
35 administration or law from a recognized college or university, and must have
36 acquired experience in treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years.

- 1 (b) The Regional Treasurer shall take charge of the Treasury Office, perform the
2 duties provided for under Book II of the Local Government Code, and shall:
- 3 1. Advise the Regional Governor and other Regional Government officials
4 concerned regarding the disposition of government funds, and on such
5 other matters relative to public finance;
- 6 2. Take custody of and exercise proper management of the funds of the
7 autonomous region;
- 8 3. Take charge of the disbursement of all Regional Government funds and
9 such other funds the custody of which may be entrusted by law or other
10 competent authority;
- 11 4. Maintain and update the tax information system of the autonomous
12 region; and
- 13 5. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions
14 as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

15

16 **7) Regional General Services Officer**

- 17 (a) The Regional General Services Officer shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a
18 Cordilleran, of good moral character, holder of a college degree preferably on
19 public administration, business administration and management or any other
20 related course from a recognized college or university, and must have acquired
21 experience in general services, including management of supply, property, solid
22 waste disposal, and general sanitation, for at least five (5) years.
- 23 (b) The Regional General Services Officer shall take charge of the Office on General
24 Services and shall:
- 25 1. Formulate measures for the consideration of the Regional Governor and
26 provide technical assistance and support in carrying out measures to ensure
27 the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities pursuant to
28 the Local Government Code and this Organic Act which require general
29 services expertise and technical support services;
- 30 2. Develop plans and strategies, and upon approval thereof by the Regional
31 Governor implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the
32 general services supportive of the welfare of the inhabitants which the
33 Regional Governor is empowered to implement;
- 34 3. Be in the frontline of general services related activities, such as the possible
35 or imminent destruction or damage to records, supplies, properties, and
36 structures and the orderly and sanitary clearing up of waste materials or

1 debris, particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural
2 calamities and disasters;

3 4. Recommend and advise the Regional Governor on all matters relative to
4 general services;

5 5. In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the General Services Officer
6 shall:

7 i. Take custody of and be accountable for all properties, real or personal,
8 owned by the autonomous government and those granted to it in the
9 form of donation, reparation, assistance and counterpart of joint
10 projects;

11 ii. With the approval of the Regional Governor, assign building or land
12 space to regional officials, who by law, are entitled to such space.
13 Recommend to the Regional Governor reasonable rental rates for
14 Regional Government properties, whether real or personal, which will
15 be leased to public or private entities;

16 iii. Recommend to the Regional Governor reasonable rental rates of
17 private properties which may be leased for the official use of the
18 Regional Government;

19 iv. Maintain and supervise janitorial, security, government public buildings
20 and other real property, whether owned or leased by the Regional
21 Government;

22 v. Collate and disseminate information regarding prices, shipping and
23 other costs of supplies and other items commonly used by the
24 Regional Government;

25 vi. Perform archival and record management with respect to records of
26 offices and departments of the Regional Government;

27 vii. Perform all other functions pertaining to supply and property
28 management heretofore performed by the Regional Government
29 Treasurer and enforce policies on records creation, maintenance, and
30 disposal; and

31 viii. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and
32 functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

33
34 SEC. 60. **Cordillera Development Council.** – There shall be a Cordillera
35 Development Council (CDC) which shall function as the main planning and advisory
36 body of the autonomous government, setting the direction of economic and social

1 development of the autonomous region and through which regional development
2 efforts shall be coordinated.

3 SEC. 61. **Composition.** – The CDC, which shall be headed by the Regional
4 Governor, shall be composed of the Regional Governor as chair, Private Sector
5 Representative as co-chair, the Regional Director of NEDA as vice-chair, and the
6 following as members:

- 7 (a) All the provincial governors, the city and capital town mayors in ARC.
- 8 (b) Two (2) members of the Regional Assembly to be designated by its presiding
9 officer.
- 10 (c) Private sector representatives of duly accredited private sector and non-
11 government or people's organizations, provided that their composition shall not
12 be more than one-fourth of the total membership.
- 13 (d) Regional heads of line agencies who are members of the NEDA Board.
- 14 (e) The Council may designate special non-voting members coming from both the
15 public and private sectors, upon concurrence of the majority of its regular
16 members.

17 SEC. 62. **Technical Support.** – The regional office of the National Economic and
18 Development Authority (NEDA) shall serve as the secretariat and technical operations
19 arm of the Council.

20 SEC. 63. **Functions.** – The Cordillera Development Council shall:

- 21 (a) Coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of short-
22 and long- term regional development plans and investment programs, regional
23 physical framework plans and special development plans, including the
24 formulation of policy recommendations.
- 25 (b) Integrate approved development plans of provinces and cities, line agencies,
26 state universities and colleges, government owned and controlled corporations
27 and special development authorities in the autonomous region into the regional
28 development plan.
- 29 (c) Review, prioritize, and endorse to the autonomous government the annual and
30 multi-year sectoral investment programs of the autonomous region for funding
31 and implementation.
- 32 (d) Review and endorse to the national government the annual budgets of agency
33 regional offices, state colleges and universities and special development
34 authorities.

- (e) Promote and direct the inflow and allocation of private investments in the autonomous region to support regional development objectives, policies, strategies.
- (f) Review and endorse national plans, programs and projects proposed for implementation in the autonomous region.
- (g) As required by the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC), review and endorse projects of national government agencies that have impact on the region and projects of LGUs in the region requiring national government exposure which may come in the form of guarantees, national government budget appropriations or subsidies, among others.
- (h) Initiate and coordinate the development, funding and implementation of regional and special development projects such as those involving several agencies or LGUs.
- (i) Coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of development projects undertaken by government agencies, local government units, state colleges and universities, government-owned and/or controlled corporations and special development authorities in the autonomous region.
- (j) Perform other related functions and activities as may be necessary to promote and sustain the socio-economic development of the autonomous region.

SEC. 64. *Creation of Committees.* – The Council may create appropriate technical and sectoral committees to assist in its work.

SEC. 65. *Existing Committees.* – Existing regional coordinating committees that are created by various laws and currently attached to specific agencies, and ad-hoc program or project-based steering committees, such as, the Development Administration Committee, Economic Development Committee, Social Development Committee, Infrastructure Development Committee, Watershed and Environmental Management Committee, Committee on Indigenous Peoples' Concerns, Regional Land Use Committee, Regional Gender and Development Committee, Regional Project Monitoring Committee, Regional Competitiveness Committee, Regional Development Budget Coordinating Committee, Regional Statistical Coordination Committee, and the Cordillera Geographic Information System Network, shall be placed under the umbrella of the CDC. Secretariat work of these inter-agency committees shall continue to be provided by their mother agency.

ARTICLE VII

THE REGIONAL VICE-GOVERNOR

1 SEC. 66. ***Functions.*** – The Regional Vice-Governor shall assist the Regional

2 Governor in the day to day operation of the Regional Government, and shall:

3 1. Assume the office of the Regional Governor for the unexpired term of the
4 latter in the event of a permanent vacancy as provided in this Organic Act;

5 2. Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the Regional
6 Governor in cases of temporary vacancy as provided in this Organic Act;

7 3. Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions as may be
8 prescribed by law.

9 The Regional Vice-Governor may be appointed to the position of head of regional

10 office as may be created by the Regional Assembly, without the need of confirmation of

11 the Regional Assembly and the Civil Service Commission.

12

13 **ARTICLE VIII**

14 **THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

15 SEC. 67. ***Legislative Authority.*** – The legislative power of the Regional

16 Government in the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera shall be vested in the Regional

17 Assembly, except to the extent reserved by the Constitution and this Organic Act on

18 initiative and referendum. Within its territorial jurisdiction and subject to the provisions

19 of the Constitution and national laws, the Regional Assembly shall have legislative

20 powers over those functions enumerated under Section 25.

21 SEC. 68. ***Regional Speaker*** – There shall be a Regional Speaker, who shall be

22 elected, from among the members of the Regional Assembly, on its first regular

23 session. The Assembly shall promulgate its rules and regulations for the conduct of its

24 proceedings.

25 The Speaker, as the political and administrative head of the Assembly, is

26 responsible for the overall management of the proceedings, activities, resources,

27 facilities and employees of the Assembly. The Speaker shall:

28 a. Prepare the legislative agenda for every regular session, establish systems and

29 procedures to ensure full deliberation and swift approval of measures included therein,

30 and may, for the purpose, avail of the assistance of the Deputy Speakers, the Majority

31 Leader, the chairpersons of the standing committees and other Members of the

32 Regional Assembly;

1 b. Conduct regular monthly caucus of all Members of the Regional Assembly or
2 groups thereof or as often as may be necessary to discuss priority measures and to
3 facilitate dialogue, consensus and action on issues and concerns affecting the Regional
4 Government and the performance of its functions;

5 c. Exercise general supervision over all committees and, in furtherance thereof,
6 conduct regular monthly meetings with the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of all
7 standing and special committees to set legislative targets, review performance in the
8 attainment of targets, ensure that the priority legislative measures of committees are
9 attuned to the legislative agenda of the Regional Assembly, and resolve such other
10 issues and concerns that affect the operations and performance of the committees;

11 d. Establish, as far as practicable, an efficient information management system
12 of the secretariat utilizing among others, modern digital technology, that can:

13 1. Facilitate access to and dissemination of data and information needed
14 in legislation inclusive of facilitating real time translation of plenary proceedings
15 in the major Philippine dialects and languages;

16 2. Provide a simplified and comprehensive process of gathering, recording,
17 storage and retrieval of data and information relating to activities and
18 proceedings of the Regional Assembly;

19 3. Sustain a public information program that will provide accessible, timely
20 and accurate information relating to the Regional Assembly, its Members and
21 officers, its committees and its legislative concerns inclusive of facilitating, as far
22 as practicable, broadcast coverage of plenary and committee proceedings;

23

24 e. Establish an efficient and effective system to monitor and evaluate the
25 performance of legislative tasks and duties of the Regional Assembly, its Members and
26 its committees;

27 f. Designate a Member as temporary presiding officer after informing the Deputy
28 Speakers: Provided, That any such designation shall be effective for one session day
29 only;

30 g. Take appropriate measures as may be deemed advisable or as the Regional
31 Assembly may direct, to preserve order and decorum in the session hall, the galleries,
32 lobbies, chambers, offices, corridors and premises of the Regional Assembly;

1 h. Sign all acts, resolutions, memorials, writs, warrants and subpoenae that may
2 be issued by or upon order of the Regional Assembly;

3 i. Perform administrative functions such as, among others:

4 1. Appointment of personnel of the Regional Assembly with authority to
5 delegate this power;

6 2. Suspension, dismissal or imposition of other disciplinary measures on
7 the personnel of the Regional Assembly in accordance with Civil Service rules:
8 Provided, That the suspension or dismissal of the Regional Secretary General and
9 the Regional Sergeant-at-Arms shall take effect only upon the concurrence of the
10 majority of all the Members of the Regional Assembly;

11 3. Consolidation or splitting of vacant positions carrying salaries and
12 wages which may be increased or reduced in the process, or creation of new
13 positions in accordance with the Regional Appropriations Act: Provided, That the
14 total amount involved shall not exceed the total amount appropriated for the
15 salaries and wages of the personnel of the Regional Assembly;

16 4. Implementation of merit-based policies and programs on personnel
17 recruitment, training and development, promotions, incentives and benefits to
18 ensure that the Regional Assembly has a corps of competent professionals able
19 to provide needed legislative support services; and

20 5. Review, approve, and sign contracts entered into by the Regional
21 Assembly, with the authority to delegate this power.

22
23 j. Prepare the annual budget of the Regional Assembly;

24 k. Prepare, in consultation with the appropriate committee of the Regional
25 Assembly, the rules and regulations governing public access to personal data and
26 related information, including statements of assets and liabilities, of Members of the
27 Regional Assembly;

28 l. Develop through an appropriate entity of the Regional Assembly a system for
29 drug testing, which may provide for the testing of any Member, officer, or employee of
30 the Regional Assembly, and otherwise shall be comparable in scope to the system for
31 drug testing in the executive branch of the Regional Government. Provided, That the
32 expenses of the system may be paid from applicable accounts of the Regional Assembly
33 for official expenses; and

1 o. Require the submission of performance reports at the end of every regular
2 session and fiscal year from the committee chairpersons, the Regional Secretary
3 General and the Regional Sergeant-at-Arms, and such other reports as may be required
4 from all concerned officers and offices of the Regional Assembly.

5 The Regional Speaker shall be the permanent head of delegation and
6 representative of the Regional Assembly in all local or international parliamentary
7 gatherings and organizations: Provided, That Regional Speaker may designate any
8 Member of the Regional Assembly to be the representative of the Regional Speaker and
9 may also determine, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation
10 with the Minority Leader, who shall constitute the Assembly's delegation to any local or
11 international conference or forum of parliamentarians and legislators and the secretariat
12 support staff to be mobilized for the purpose.

13 SEC. 69. ***Enactment of Laws and Resolutions.*** – The Regional Assembly shall
14 enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of
15 the region and its inhabitants as well as for the efficient and effective operation of the
16 Regional Government.

17 SEC. 70. ***Creation, Division, Merger and Abolition of Local Government Units.*** – The Regional Assembly may, by law create, divide, merge or abolish
18 municipalities or barangays. The municipalities or barangays created, divided or merged
19 shall be entitled to their appropriate share in the national taxes or Internal Revenue
20 Allotment (IRA). Provided, that it shall be approved by a majority of the votes cast in a
21 plebiscite in the political units directly affected.

23 SEC. 71. ***Administrative Support.*** – The Regional Assembly shall have an
24 administrative and support staff. Each member shall have at least three (3) confidential
25 Legislative Assistants whose qualifications, rank and salary grade level shall be
26 equivalent to regional executive assistants. Their term of service shall however be co-
27 terminus with their overseer.

28 SEC. 72. ***Regular and Special Sessions.*** – The Regional Assembly shall start
29 its regular session on the first Monday of July, and by resolution fix the day, time and
30 place of its regular sessions, which shall be held at least once a week. However, the
31 Assembly may be called to a special session by the Regional Speaker or the Regional
32 Governor whenever necessary and a notice of meeting shall be sent to the member's
33 place of residence at least twenty-four (24) hours before the special session is held.
34 Unless otherwise concurred in by two-thirds (2/3) votes of the members, there being a
35 quorum, no other matters may be considered at a special session except those stated in

1 the notice. The Regional Assembly may invite the President and other government
2 officials to address it.

3 **SEC. 73. *Sessions and Quorum.*** – A majority of all the members of the
4 Regional Assembly shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may
5 adjourn from day to day and may compel the attendance of absent members in such
6 manner, and under such penalties as the Assembly may provide in its rules.

7 On the first regular session following the election of its members, and within
8 ninety (90) days thereafter, the Regional Assembly shall adopt or update its rules of
9 proceedings which shall include, among other things, the organization of the Assembly
10 and the election of its officers, creation of standing committees, the time, place and
11 manner of convening its regular and special sessions, the conduct and discipline of its
12 members, the conduct and discipline of every person present during its session, the
13 preparation and publication of its journal, the determination of quorum, and the
14 necessary votes to pass any measure, and recall proceedings in accordance with the
15 Local Government Code.

16 **SEC. 74. *Law.*** – (a) Every bill shall embrace only one (1) subject which shall be
17 expressed in the title thereof.

18 (b) No bill shall become a law unless it has passed three readings on separate days,
19 and printed copies thereof in its final form have been distributed to the members
20 three (3) days before its passage, except when the Regional Governor certifies to
21 the necessity of its immediate enactment to meet a public calamity or emergency
22 affecting the region, or the component provinces, cities, municipalities or barangays.

23 (c) On third reading of a bill, no amendment thereto shall be allowed, and the vote
24 thereon shall be taken immediately thereafter, and the yeas and nays entered in
25 the Journal.

26 (d) Every bill passed by the Regional Assembly shall, before it becomes a law, be
27 presented to the Regional Governor. If the Regional Governor approves the
28 same, the Regional Governor shall sign it, otherwise, the Regional Governor shall
29 veto it and return the same to the Regional Assembly with the objections. The
30 Regional Governor shall communicate the veto on any bill to the Regional
31 Assembly within ten (10) days from receipt thereof, otherwise, it shall become a
32 law as if it was signed.

33 Upon receipt of the veto, the Regional Assembly shall enter the objections in its
34 journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds

1 (2/3) of all the members of the Regional Assembly shall agree to pass the bill, it
2 shall become a law.

3 (e) The Regional Governor shall have the power to veto any particular item or items
4 in an appropriation or revenue, but the veto shall not affect the item or items to
5 which the Regional Governor does not object.

6 SEC. 75. **People's Question Hour.** – There shall be a people's hour at least once a
7 month or as often as the rules of the Regional Assembly may provide, which shall be
8 included in the Order of Business, during which, upon initiative of any Member of the
9 Cabinet, may, with the consent of the Regional Governor, or upon the request of the
10 Regional Assembly, appear and answer questions and interpellations by members of the
11 Assembly on any matter pertaining to the Cabinet Member's department.

12 The Regional Assembly or any of its committees may conduct inquiries in aid of
13 legislation in accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights and
14 dignity of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected.

15 SEC. 76. **Immunity from Suit.** – No member shall be questioned or be held liable
16 in any other place for any speech or debate in the Regional Assembly or in any
17 committee thereof.

18 SEC. 77. **Appropriations Bill.** – The Regional Assembly shall pass an
19 appropriations bill for the ensuing year at or before the end of each year, based on the
20 budget of expenditures and sources of funds submitted to it by the Regional Governor.

21 (a) No provision or enactment shall be embraced in the regional appropriations bill,
22 unless it relates specifically to some particular appropriations therein. Any such
23 provision or enactment shall be limited in its operation to the appropriation to
24 which it relates.

25 (b) The procedure in approving appropriations for the Regional Assembly shall
26 strictly follow the same procedure for approving appropriations for the regional
27 executive department.

28 (c) A special appropriations bill shall specify the purpose for which it is intended, and
29 shall be supported by funds actually available as certified by the Regional
30 Treasurer or to be raised by a corresponding revenue proposal therein.

31 (d) No law shall be passed authorizing any transfer of appropriations.

32 (e) The Regional Assembly may not increase the appropriations recommended by
33 the Regional Governor for the operation of the Regional Government as specified
34 in the budget. The form, content and manner of preparation of the budget shall
35 be prescribed by regional law: Provided, however, that pending the enactment of

1 such a regional law, the budgeting process of the Regional Government shall be
2 governed by existing national laws and rules and regulations prescribed by the
3 Department of Budget and Management.

4 SEC. 78. ***Expenditure of Public Funds.*** – No money shall be paid out of the
5 regional treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by regional law.

6 (a) No money or property shall be appropriated, applied, paid or used, directly or
7 indirectly, for the use, benefit or support, of any sect, church, denomination,
8 sectarian institution, or system of religion or for the use, benefit or support of
9 any priest, preacher, minister or other religious teacher or dignitary as such,
10 except when such priest, preacher, minister or dignitary is assigned to the
11 regional police or government orphanage and rehabilitation centers or similar
12 institutions.

13 (b) All money collected on any regional tax levied for a special purpose shall be
14 treated as a special fund and paid out for such purpose only. If the purpose for
15 which a special fund was created has been fulfilled or abandoned, the balance, if
16 any, shall be transferred to the general fund of the Regional Government.

17 SEC. 79. ***Certified True Copies of Law.*** – The Regional Assembly shall, within ten
18 (10) working days from approval thereof, submit to the President and to both Houses of
19 Congress a certified true copy of all laws and resolutions it passed.

20 SEC. 80. ***Creation of Offices.*** – The Regional Assembly may create such other
21 offices and positions as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the regional
22 government subject to availability of funds.

23 SEC. 81. ***Program for Development.*** – Subject to national laws and, sound public
24 administration principles, exercising the corporate powers of the Regional Government
25 under the Constitution and RA 7160, the Regional Assembly shall evolve a program for
26 generating development funds to accelerate social and economic development in the
27 region. The Regional Government shall implement the same, after conducting public
28 consultation. Provided, that when regional revenues are insufficient, the difference shall
29 be funded by the national government.

30
31 SEC. 82. ***Approval of Plans.*** – The Regional Assembly shall approve by ordinance
32 the recommended regional physical framework plan, the regional development plan, the
33 regional development investment program, the regional annual investment plan and
34 regional annual budget within the prescribed timetable.

1 SEC. 83. ***Enactment of Necessary Legislation.*** – When the need arises, the
2 Regional Assembly shall enact laws and necessary legislative measures that shall
3 strengthen and supplement the implementation of national laws, devolved functions
4 and address conflicting laws.

5

ARTICLE IX

PATRIMONY, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

8 SEC. 84. ***Coordination and Cooperation.*** – The Regional Government, with the
9 support of the national government, shall, pursuant to regional autonomy and poverty
10 alleviation initiative, stimulate, facilitate, support and coordinate development in the
11 region towards attaining equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a
12 sustained increase in the amount of goods and services available to Cordillerans and an
13 expanding productivity and income as the key to raising the quality of life for all:

14 a. The national government shall provide financial support and assistance to the
15 Autonomous Region of the Cordillera by appropriating such sums as may be
16 necessary to accelerate the development of the autonomous region, on top of
17 the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) provided therewith and the Local
18 Government Units as well as the allocations already provided through the
19 regional line agencies.

20 b. The national government shall consult and coordinate with the autonomous
21 Regional Government before programs and projects are undertaken in the
22 autonomous region.

23 SEC. 85. ***Cordillera Development Plan.*** – The Regional Government through the
24 Cordillera Development Council shall formulate its development plans taking into
25 consideration the Cordilleran's unique needs and aspirations, consistent with national
26 development goals. The Development Plan shall include the promotion of growth and
27 full employment, human development, and address social and economic inequities that
28 have resulted from decades of neglect, historical injustice, poverty and inequality.

29

30 SEC. 86. ***Control and Supervision over Natural Resources.*** – The Regional
31 Government shall have control and supervision over natural resources in accordance to
32 this Organic Act.

33 SEC. 87. ***Preferential Rights of Cordillerans to Utilize and Develop Natural***
34 ***Resources.*** – The exploration, development, utilization, and enjoyment of natural

1 resources shall be allowed to citizens of the Philippines and to private enterprises,
2 including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations with at least
3 sixty percent (60%) of their capital investment or capital stocks directly controlled or
4 owned by Filipinos: Provided, that priority be given to Cordillerans in the
5 implementation of programs, projects, and activities related to these natural resources
6 in the region and shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution and this Organic
7 Act.

8 SEC. 88. ***Comprehensive Framework for Sustainable Development.*** – The
9 Regional Government shall develop a comprehensive framework for sustainable
10 development through the proper conservation, utilization and development of natural
11 resources. Such framework shall guide the Regional Government in adopting programs,
12 policies, and mechanisms that focus on the protection of the environment, and
13 reduction of vulnerability from climate change.

14 SEC. 89. ***Development of Lands 18° Above in Slope.*** – The Regional
15 Government in partnership with the communities, especially the indigenous peoples or
16 indigenous cultural communities, and their government units, and support of the
17 national government shall adopt measures for the development of communities
18 occupying lands eighteen degrees in slope or over, by providing the necessary
19 infrastructure, financial and technical support.

20 SEC. 90. ***Transportation and Communication System.*** – The Regional
21 Government shall, in coordination with the national government, establish a
22 transportation and communication system interconnecting the various areas of the
23 autonomous region with each other and to other regions adjacent to the Cordilleras.
24 Likewise, the Regional Government in close coordination with component local
25 government units shall plan, construct, modernize and maintain rural and urban
26 infrastructure facilities and utilities, including alternative transport systems within critical
27 environments.

28

29 SEC. 91. ***Agrarian Reform.*** – Subject to ecological considerations, the Regional
30 Government shall adopt and implement a comprehensive rural agrarian reform
31 program, as well as an urban development program consistent with the Constitution
32 and national laws and policies to ensure the just and sustainable utilization of land
33 within its jurisdiction.

1 SEC. 92. ***Environmental Protection.*** – The Regional Government shall develop
2 standards pertaining to the protection, conservation, and enhancement, of the
3 environment and natural resources, appropriate to the socio- cultural and
4 environmental uniqueness of the Cordillera.

5 SEC. 93. ***Transfer of Existing Nature Reserves and Protected Areas.*** – The
6 management and protection of nature reserves and aquatic parks, forests, watershed
7 reservations, and other protected areas in the Autonomous Region that have already
8 been defined by and under the authority of the National Government shall be
9 transferred to the Regional Government.

10 The Regional Transition Committee composed of the Regional Governor,
11 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission on Indigenous
12 Peoples, representatives of IPs and ICCs affected, as well as other relevant government
13 agencies shall cause the process of transferring these areas including the conduct of
14 surveys of all affected areas and the planning and transition for each and every
15 protected area. Such process shall be completed within a period not exceeding two
16 years.

17 SEC. 94. ***Renewable and other Energy Resources and Extractive Industries.***
18 – Policies on Renewable and other energy resources and extractive industries shall be
19 drawn up by the Regional Assembly in accordance with its Comprehensive Sustainable
20 Development Plan, as well as its over-all medium-term and long- term Regional
21 Development Plan.

22 SEC. 95. ***Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements.*** – The Regional
23 Governor shall initiate and recommend to the President the applications for financial
24 and technical assistance agreements covering mineral resources within the region

25 SEC. 96. ***Participation in National Development Planning.*** – To ensure that
26 the Regional development plans are reflected in the national development plans, the
27 Regional Government shall participate in national development planning. The Regional
28 Governor shall be a member of the Board of the National Economic and Development
29 Authority.

30 **ARTICLE X**

31 **SOURCES OF REVENUES AND OTHER FISCAL MATTERS**

32 SEC. 97. ***Share from the National Revenues.*** – To conserve, protect and
33 develop the national patrimony and heritage located in the Autonomous Region of the
34 Cordillera, and devolved to the region by this Organic Act, and to fund its operations,

1 the Regional Government shall have a share of the national revenues which include the
2 following:

3 (a) *Three percent (3%) of the National Internal Revenue Taxes.* The Regional
4 Government shall have a share in the national internal revenue taxes equivalent
5 to 3 percent based on the collection of the third fiscal year preceding the current
6 fiscal year. Eighty percent (80%) of such share shall be appropriated in the
7 annual regional budget for development projects. The internal revenue allotment
8 share of the Regional Government shall be released directly to the Regional
9 Government Treasurer and shall not be subject to any lien or holdback that may
10 be imposed by the national government for whatever purpose.

11 (b) *Forty percent (40%) Share of the National Wealth Tax.* The Regional
12 Government shall have a separate forty percent (40%) share of the gross
13 collections in the preceding fiscal year from mining taxes, royalties,
14 environmental services, forestry and fishery charges, energy production charges,
15 and such other taxes, fees and charges, including related surcharges, interests
16 and fines derived from the utilization and development of the national wealth
17 within its territorial jurisdiction. Provided that the share in national wealth shall
18 be used for the preservation and further development of the environment.

19
20 The Regional Government shall have a share of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of
21 the gross sales or receipts derived from the utilization and development of the national
22 wealth within their territorial jurisdiction. This provision shall be applicable to all
23 corporations, partnership, individuals and other entities including government agencies
24 and government owned or controlled corporations engaged in the utilization and
25 development of the national wealth within the region irrespective of existing contrary
26 laws, rules and regulations of national application.

27 The share in the preceding paragraph shall be distributed in the following manner:

- 28 (1) Province / Highly Urbanized City – Twenty percent (20%)
29 (2) Component City/ Municipality – Forty percent (40%)
30 (3) Barangay – Thirty percent (30%)
31 (4) Region – Ten percent (10%)

32
33 (c) *Two percent (2%) share out of the Economic Zones Tax.* The Regional
34 Government shall have a separate two percent (2%) share out of the five
35 percent (5%) final tax on gross income earned or equivalent to forty percent

1 (40%) of total tax paid by businesses within the economic zones found in the
2 Cordillera, in addition to the existing shares of the local government units of two
3 percent (2%).

4 (d) *Twenty percent (20%) Share of Excess in Value Added Tax.* The ARC shall have
5 a separate twenty percent (20%) share of the excess in VAT collections from the
6 immediately preceding year within the territorial jurisdiction of the autonomous
7 region. The fund shall support cottage industry programs.

8 Local Government Units shall have a separate twenty percent (20%) share of the
9 excess in VAT collections from the immediately preceding year.

10 (e) *Fifteen percent (15%) Share of Total Excise Tax.* The ARC shall have a separate
11 fifteen percent (15%) share of the total excise tax collection on all products
12 subject to excise tax within the territorial jurisdiction of the autonomous region
13 for the second calendar year preceding the year of distribution, in addition to the
14 existing shares of the local government units.

15 Local Government Units shall have a separate fifteen percent (15%) share from the
16 total excise tax collection on locally manufactured virginia-type cigarettes for the second
17 year preceding the year of distribution.

18 (f) *Fifteen percent (15%) Share of Incremental Excise Tax in Burley and Native
19 Tobacco Products.* The Regional Government shall have a separate fifteen
20 percent (15% share of the excise tax collected on burley and native tobacco
21 products collected within the region.

22 Local Government Units shall have a separate fifteen percent (15%) share of the
23 excise tax collected on burley and native tobacco products.

24 (g) *Forty percent (40%) Share of Renewable and other energy Tax.* The Regional
25 Government shall have a separate forty percent (40%) of the special privilege
26 tax on Renewable and other energy resources developed for the maintenance of
27 watersheds and social and economic development of the upstream host
28 communities.

29
30 Local Government Units' share from the renewable and other energy resources tax
31 shall be based on the computation provided under the Local Government Code (RA
32 7160).

33 (h) Three percent (3%) of net income of Philippine Amusement and Gaming
34 Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) for

1 construction and maintenance of school buildings, hospitals and related
2 structures and services.

3 (i) Shares in future tax impositions by the national government.

4 SEC. 98. **Downstream Benefits.** – The ARC shall be entitled to one and one-half
5 percent (1.5%) of the gross receipts from the utilization of national wealth sourced or
6 emanating from the Autonomous Region by persons, individual or juridical entities
7 operating outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Autonomous Region.

8 SEC. 99. **Sources of Regional Government Revenues.** – The ARC shall be
9 entitled to the following sources of revenues:

- 10 a. Fees and charges imposed by the Regional Government;
- 11 b. Taxes, fees, or charges for the registration of motor vehicles and for the
12 issuances of all kinds of licenses or permit for the driving thereof, except tricycles
13 which shall be registered with the city or municipality within whose territorial
14 boundaries they are operated;
- 15 c. Shares and revenue generated from the operations of public utilities within the
16 autonomous region;
- 17 d. Appropriations, shares in the internal revenue taxes, block grants, and other
18 budgetary allocations coming from the central government or national
19 government, and
- 20 e. Block grants derived from economic agreements or conventions entered into or
21 authorized by the Regional Assembly, donations, endowments, foreign
22 assistance, and other forms of aid, subject to the pertinent provisions of the
23 Constitution.

24 SEC. 100. **Power of Taxation.** – The ARC shall have the power to create its own
25 sources of revenues and to levy fees, charges and taxes subject to such guidelines and
26 limitations of the Constitution and this Act, consistent with the basic policy of local
27 autonomy. It shall likewise have the power to grant incentives or exemption on fees
28 and charges which it is empowered to impose under this Act.

29
30 SEC. 101. **Situs of Taxation.** – All corporations, partnerships, and other entities,
31 including government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations directly
32 engaged in business in the region shall pay their corresponding taxes, fees, and
33 charges to the province, city, municipality or barangays where such establishments are
34 conducting their business operations irrespective of the location of their principal or
35 main offices.

1 SEC. 102. ***Appropriations from the National Government.*** – The national
2 government shall continue to provide appropriations for the regular operations and
3 programs of devolved line agencies in the region to be prepared by the Autonomous
4 Region of the Cordillera and incorporated under the General Appropriations Act. The
5 National Government shall provide appropriations for the mandatory organizational
6 structure and positions of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera and the latter may
7 access other special purpose funds appropriated in the national budget.

8 SEC. 103. ***Donations to the Regional Government.*** – Donations or grants to the
9 region to be used in undertaking projects in health, education, culture, youth and sports
10 development, housing, science and technology, and in economic development, shall be
11 deductible in full in determining the taxable income of the donor or grantor. Provided,
12 that the validation and certification processes for such donations or grants shall have
13 been done according to regional law.

14 SEC. 104. ***Trade Agreements.*** – The Regional Governor, in accordance with the
15 provisions of the Constitution and national laws, and upon the recommendation of the
16 Cordillera Development Council may enter into agreements or trade compacts and
17 contract loans subject to the ratification of the Regional Assembly to generate grants
18 and foreign loans for development of the region.

19 SEC. 105. ***Limitations on Contracting of Loans.*** – The Regional Governor may
20 contract loans only in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and national
21 laws and subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly.

22 SEC. 106. ***Banks and other financial institutions.*** – The ARC shall encourage
23 the establishment of banks and other financial institutions and their branches to
24 facilitate the accumulation of capital and investment and the delivery of credit
25 assistance to business in the region.

26

27 **ARTICLE XI**

28 **AGRICULTURE, AGRARIAN REFORM,**

29 **TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND COOPERATIVE**

30 SEC. 107. ***Agrarian Reform and Sustainable Agricultural and Fisheries***
31 ***Development.*** – Consistent with applicable laws, the Regional Government shall, as a
32 basic policy, promote agrarian reform and sustainable agricultural development within
33 the principles of social equity and poverty alleviation, food security and food sufficiency,
34 global competitiveness, fair trade, rational use of resources.

- 1 (a) The Regional Government shall ensure that basic agricultural support
2 services and infrastructure be accessible to the small and marginalized
3 farmers and fisher folks. It shall likewise promote agribusiness and full
4 employment based on a sound agricultural development and agrarian reform.
5 (b) The Regional Government shall put special emphasis on production towards
6 self-sufficiency of staple food commodities and shall at all times guarantee
7 the availability, accessibility and affordability of safe food commodities.
8 (c) The Regional Government shall work on the improvement of the quality and
9 value of raw and processed agri-based products as a means to enhance
10 competitiveness of the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the domestic and
11 global markets.
12 (d) The Regional Government shall formulate and implement measures to
13 promote indigenous concept of farming and protect the farmers from unfair
14 trade practices and unfair competition.
15 (e) The Regional Government shall ensure the equitable and rational distribution
16 of public resources and investments in order to obtain the optimum returns
17 on investments and to benefit a greater number of constituents.
18 (f) The Regional Government shall always consider the limited carrying capacity
19 of the region's natural and agricultural resources in the development of
20 agricultural and fisheries programs and interventions.

21 SEC. 108. ***Development of Water Resources.*** – The Regional Government
22 shall give top priority to the conservation, protection, testing, utilization and
23 development of water resources for agriculture, fisheries development, domestic water
24 supply and power development. It shall enact appropriate legislation which shall
25 enhance, develop, conserve, and protect natural fishery resources especially on species
26 endemic to the Cordillera.

27 SEC. 109. ***Promoting the Rights of Fisher Folks.*** – The Regional Government
28 shall recognize, promote, and protect the rights and welfare of fisher folks, their
29 associations and cooperatives. The provinces and cities concerned shall support to
30 subsistence fisher folk through adequate funds, appropriate technology and research,
31 marketing assistance, and other support services like fishery processing facilities and
32 access to credit.

33 SEC. 110. ***Agriculture Production.*** – The Regional Government shall pursue the
34 following strategies to develop and increase agricultural productivity.

- 35 (a) Pursue a multidisciplinary research, development and extension activities to
36 produce and promote technologies and invent machinery and facilities, that will

1 be used to improve productivity and product quality, reduce cost of production,
2 enhance value-addition and improve processing, and enhance abilities to protect
3 the environment and agricultural resources;

4 (b) Initiate, encourage and give highest priority support to small and medium
5 agribusiness enterprises and industries with linkages to agriculture. It shall
6 ensure the allocation of adequate public investments to establish adequate
7 support-agricultural infrastructure and facilities to sustain such ventures;

8 (c) Formulate and implement product standards and regulatory rules that will ensure
9 the production, processing, distribution and marketing of safe and globally-
10 competitive products, and simultaneously promote environmental conservation;
11 and

12 (d) Ensure that all sectors involved in the [production, processing and marketing of
13 food and non- food products shall strictly adhere to appropriate existing laws and
14 regulations on the proper utilization and disposal of synthetic and chemical
15 inputs and materials, and industrial and toxic wastes. Relative to this, the
16 Regional Government shall pursue and encourage organic methods of agriculture
17 in a day.

18 SEC. 111. ***Prevent Flight of Labor and Capital.*** – To promote investments and
19 employment and to prevent flight of capital and labor from the region, the Regional
20 Government shall adopt measures:

21 (a) Against monopolies, cartels and unfair competition in public utilities,
22 development, trading and similar concerns. It may, in the interest of regional
23 welfare and security, establish and operate pioneering public utilities. Upon
24 payment of just compensation, it may transfer the ownership of such utilities to
25 cooperatives or other collective organizations; and

26 (b) To initiate, encourage and support industrialization in the region, taking into
27 account the culture and capabilities of the people of the area to control or
28 manage their resources, the ecological needs of the area and the protection,
29 conservation and development of resources.

31 SEC. 112. ***Eco-cultural Tourism.*** – Consistent with the preservation of cultural
32 heritage and the protection of ecology, the Regional Government shall promote eco-
33 cultural tourism in the region. Sites with historical, scientific, cultural significance
34 including natural and man-made landmarks and scenic vistas shall likewise be
35 preserved, maintained and protected.

1 SEC. 113. ***Promote Economic Zones.*** – The Regional Government shall
2 encourage, promote and support the establishment and development of economic
3 zones, industrial and trade centers, and airports, in strategic areas and growth centers
4 in the region, including the necessary support infrastructure in accordance with land
5 use and other environmental considerations.

6 SEC. 114. ***Marketing and Exportation of Indigenous Products.*** – The Regional
7 Government shall, in coordination with local government units, encourage investments,
8 development, marketing and exportation of indigenous and other local products in
9 accordance with its development goals and priorities.

10 SEC. 115. ***Cooperatives.*** – The Regional Government shall promote cooperatives
11 registered with the Cooperative Development Authority as tools for economic
12 development, social justice, and people empowerment to initiate policies and develop
13 mechanisms to enjoin the participation of the banking sector and financial institutions in
14 the delivery of credit assistance for the establishment and building of rural enterprises
15 and small-medium enterprises (SMEs).

16

17 **ARTICLE XII**

18 **EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,**

19 **LANGUAGE, ARTS AND CULTURE AND SPORT**

20 SEC. 116. ***Regional Educational Policies.*** – The Regional Government shall
21 formulate educational policies to preserve, safeguard and develop cultural heritage
22 guided by the following plans and programs:

- 23 (a) The establishment of educational institutions, colleges and universities which
24 shall enjoy fiscal and administrative autonomy but subject to regional laws.
25 Existing educational institutions, colleges and universities shall continue to be
26 governed by their respective charters;
- 27 (b) The development of curricular programs relevant to the preservation and
28 development of cultural heritage and responsive to the social, economic, political
29 and moral needs of the Cordillerans;
- 30 (c) The adoption and enactment of educational policies that shall recognize, support,
31 develop and promote existing indigenous system of learning; and
- 32 (d) The creation of Regional Educational Board that will supervise, govern and
33 intervene in the establishment, adoption and implementation of educational

1 policies and programs of both formal and informal education for schools, colleges
2 and universities in the region.

3 SEC. 117. ***Education with Highest Budget Allocation.*** – The Regional
4 Government shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education.

5 SEC. 118. ***Exemption from Taxes and Duties.*** – Private educational institutions,
6 colleges and universities shall enjoy the protection and support of the Regional
7 Government. All revenues and assets of non-stock, non-profit educational institutions
8 used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes shall be exempt from
9 taxes and duties.

10 SEC. 119. ***Creation of Regional Scholarship Committee for Education.*** – The
11 Regional Government shall assist the national government to provide free basic
12 education and shall likewise endeavor to provide free tertiary education through
13 scholarship programs, subsidies, research grants and other incentives to poor, gifted,
14 and deserving individuals. Towards this end, there shall be created a Regional
15 Scholarship Committee for Education.

16 SEC. 120. ***Rights of Teachers and Parents to Organize.*** – The right of teachers,
17 employees, students and parents to organize themselves and to participate in school
18 policy and decision-making shall be guaranteed.

19 SEC. 121. ***Culture Sensitive Education.*** – The educational system in the region
20 shall develop a program, research, instruction and extension that will promote
21 consciousness and appreciation of the ethnic identity of the people in the region and
22 shall provide a better understanding of their cultural heritage for the attainment of
23 national unity and harmony in all levels of education. It shall provide, promote, enhance
24 or adopt a curriculum in all levels that includes Cordillera languages, customs and
25 traditions and other indigenous knowledge systems and practices, as may be applicable.

26

27 SEC. 122. ***State Colleges and Universities.*** – State colleges and universities in
28 the region shall form part of the regional educational sub-system of the autonomous
29 region and shall continue to enjoy fiscal and institutional autonomy, continue to be
30 governed by their respective charters and enjoy support of the Regional Government.

31 (a) The Regional Government shall be represented in the board of regents or
32 trustees in state universities and colleges in the region.

33 (b) The budget of state colleges and universities in the region while prepared
34 separately shall form part the budget of the Regional Government when

1 presented to congress for approval. The state colleges and universities shall
2 continue to receive funding from the national government while the Regional
3 Government shall provide additional funding.

4 (c) The Regional Government shall capacitate state colleges and universities in order
5 to provide assistance to regional development.

6 SEC. 123. **School Charters.** – Subject to the general supervision of the Regional
7 Government, all schools with charters shall continue to be governed by their respective
8 charters.

9 SEC. 124. **Priority on Indigenous and Appropriate Technology.** – The
10 management of scientific and indigenous research and appropriate technology on all
11 levels of education including research institutions shall be given priority by the Regional
12 Government.

13 SEC. 125. **Intellectual Property Rights.** – Incentives and safeguards for
14 intellectual property rights, and assistance in the registration of patents and copyrights
15 shall be accorded to Cordillera artists, writers, scientists, researchers and inventors.

16 SEC. 126. **Medium of Instruction.** – The Regional Government shall retain English
17 and Filipino as a medium of instruction in all levels of education. Consistent with its
18 regional and cultural identity, and whenever possible, it shall adopt a system of multi-
19 lingual or mother tongue-based approach in basic education to strengthen and enrich
20 the various languages and dialects in the region as well as the national language as
21 maybe appropriate.

22 SEC. 127. **Sports Development.** – The Regional Government shall design and
23 implement sports development programs, and indigenous games and sports which shall
24 be a cooperative responsibility of the school, the community, and the government.

25

26 SEC. 128. **Cultural Heritage Center.** – The Regional Government shall establish a
27 Cordillera Commission for the Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage to
28 promote, research, document, coordinate with other groups and institutions and
29 establish and maintain a data bank on all indigenous matters.

30

31 **ARTICLE XIII**

32 **SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND WELFARE**

1 SEC. 129. ***Measures on Social Protection.*** – The Regional Government commits
2 itself to social protection and shall adopt measures to:

- 3 (a) Empower and improve the quality of life of the poor, disadvantaged,
4 marginalized, and vulnerable individuals, families, sectors and communities of
5 the region;
- 6 (b) Reduce or eradicate poverty to ensure that all Cordillerans are free from all
7 forms of deprivation, vulnerability, and abuse;
- 8 (c) Create equal opportunities for assistance and protection for all Cordillerans;
- . 9 (d) Promote gender and development (GAD) through the creation, adoption and
10 sustainability of programs and policies that are gender sensitive; and
- 11 (e) Enact measures and develop programs that will protect the people from any
12 threat of violence and exploitation, eliminate trafficking in persons and mitigate
13 pressures for involuntary migration and servitude of persons, not only to support
14 trafficked persons but more importantly, to ensure their recovery, rehabilitation
15 and reintegration into the mainstream of society.

16 SEC. 130. ***Equality of Employment Opportunities.*** – The Regional Government
17 shall undertake steps to protect the labor sector and promote equality of employment
18 opportunities for all. Towards this end, it shall provide for:

- 19 (a) Participation of the Regional Government in the regional wage board in working
20 out periodic adjustments and rational standardization of compensation rates to
21 ensure a sustainable and decent wage for all workers;
- 22 (b) Profit sharing schemes that recognize the right of workers to a just share in the
23 profits of businesses, provide incentives thereof, and the right of the enterprise
24 to reasonable returns on investments;
- 25 (c) Protection of workers against unhealthy and unsafe working conditions; and
- 26 (d) Mandatory corporate social responsibility towards employees and host
27 community.

28
29 SEC. 131. ***Hiring of Qualified Cordillerans.*** – The Regional Government shall
30 promote the hiring of qualified Cordillerans in government projects and private
31 businesses located in the autonomous region.

32 SEC. 132. ***Health as Basic Human Right.*** – The Regional Government recognizes
33 health as a basic human right and the attainment, maintenance and protection thereof
34 shall be its responsibility. It affirms health as an instrument for and a product of socio-
35 economic development. For this purpose, it shall, among other things:

- 1 (a) Establish, maintain, and support an effective health care delivery system utilizing
2 primary health care as a comprehensive and integrated approach;
- 3 (b) Ensure that the health care system is governed by the principles of service, social
4 justice and equity;
- 5 (c) Promote health knowledge and skills that will enable its people to take
6 responsibility for their health;
- 7 (d) Give relevant training and appropriate standards for health workers and
8 professionals;
- 9 (e) Establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system which shall
10 provide for the adoption of an essential drug list, encourage the use of generic
11 medicines or drugs, and promote the use of herbal medicines and indigenous
12 health resources;
- 13 (f) Conduct research on traditional healing methods and promote indigenous health
14 care practices;
- 15 (g) Evolve financing schemes to effectively lessen the costs of health care without
16 sacrificing the quality of health care services; and
- 17 (h) Prioritize health by allocating at least 5% of the Regional Annual Budget to form
18 the base of health budget.

19 SEC. 133. ***Rights of Workers.*** – The Regional Government shall, in consonance
20 with the Constitution, guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective
21 bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including those provided
22 by law.

23 SEC. 134. ***Rights of Vulnerable Sectors.*** – The Regional Government shall:

- 24 (a) Promote the well-being of differently-abled persons, the mentally handicapped,
25 the elderly, the homeless, widowed and orphans, retirees, and veterans, adult
26 offenders and children in conflict with the law and victims; and
- 27 (b) Assist victims of calamities, abused and depressed children and women in crisis
28 situations, including victims of adult offenders and children in conflict with the
29 law.

30 SEC. 135. ***Program for Rebel Returnees.*** – The Regional Government shall adopt
31 a social integration program responsive to the needs of rebel returnees including adult
32 offenders and children in conflict with the law.

33 SEC. 136. ***Social and Insurance Measures.*** – The Regional Government shall
34 adopt insurance and social security measures responsive to the needs of its people to
35 supplement existing privileges.

1 SEC. 137. ***Housing Programs.*** – The Regional Government, in cooperation with
2 the private sector, shall promote housing programs where needed, which shall be
3 financed under liberal credit terms and shall utilize indigenous materials, architecture
4 and technology. Participation of housing cooperatives to administer the projects shall be
5 encouraged.

6 SEC. 138. ***Role of Cordilleran Women.*** – The Regional Government shall
7 recognize and strengthen the role of the Cordillera women in nation-building. It shall
8 ensure the full implementation of the Magna Carta of Women and all other existing laws
9 that promote the welfare and protection of women.

10 SEC. 139. ***Comprehensive Program on Youth.*** – The Regional Government shall
11 establish a comprehensive program on youth development, create the structures to
12 implement the same and appropriate adequate funds to provide support for the
13 program.

14 SEC. 140. ***Support to Peoples' Organization.*** – The Regional Government shall
15 promote and support duly established peoples' organizations and encourage the
16 formation of organizations, especially those of the underprivileged.

17

18 **ARTICLE XIV**

19 **PEACE AND ORDER**

20 SEC. 141. ***Prohibition on Private Armies.*** – The Regional Government shall
21 promote and maintain peace and order and public safety in the region. It shall not allow
22 private armies.

23

24 SEC. 142. ***Defense of the Region.*** – The defense and security of the autonomous
25 region shall be the responsibility of the national government with due recognition to
26 recommendations from the Regional Government.

27 SEC. 143. ***Peace Keeping Programs.*** – The Regional Government shall have co-
28 management over peace-keeping programs and initiatives and undertake close
29 coordination with the Philippine National Police as well as the Armed Forces of the
30 Philippines and other National Law Enforcement Agencies.

31 SEC. 144. ***Regional Emergency.*** – The provisions of the preceding sections
32 notwithstanding, the Regional Governor may request the President of the Philippines to
33 call upon the Armed Forces of the Philippines:

- 1 (a) To prevent or suppress lawlessness, violence, invasion or rebellion, when the
2 public safety so requires, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution;
3 (b) To suppress the danger to or breach of peace in the autonomous region, when
4 the police forces of the autonomous region are not able to do so; and
5 (c) To avert any imminent danger to public order and security in the autonomous
6 region.

7 SEC. 145. ***Traditional Conflict Resolution.*** – The Regional Government shall
8 strengthen and enhance indigenous institutions or systems as may be applicable and
9 found to be acceptable and effective in the promotion of social, political, economic and
10 peace and order in the region. It shall provide for a system of incorporating indigenous
11 practices in conflict resolution wherever and whenever applicable.

12

13 **ARTICLE XV**

14

15 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

16 SEC. 146. ***Text of the Organic Act.*** – This Organic Act shall be officially
17 promulgated in Filipino and English and translated into the languages widely spoken in
18 the autonomous region. In case of conflict, the English text shall prevail.

19 SEC. 147. ***Change of Name.*** – The Regional Assembly may adopt a new name for
20 the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera after public consultation.

21 SEC. 148 ***Regional Symbol.*** – The Regional Government shall have a regional flag,
22 emblem and hymn.

23

24 **ARTICLE XVI**

25

26 **PERSONAL, FAMILY, INDIGENOUS AND PROPERTY RELATIONS**

27 SEC. 149. ***Customary Laws.*** – Customary laws affecting personal, family, tribal
28 and property relations in the Cordillera shall be recognized.

29 SEC. 150. ***Protection of the Family.*** – The family as the basic unit of society shall
30 be protected.

31 SEC. 151. ***Indigenous Marriages.*** – Marriages solemnized in accordance with the
32 indigenous customary laws of the place shall be valid, and the dissolution of such
 marriages in accordance with these laws shall be recognized.

1 SEC. 152. ***Indigenous Settlement of Disputes.*** – Settlement of tribal, personal
2 and family disputes shall be recognized. Acquisition and encumbrance of property done
3 in accordance with customary practices, and settlement of disputes involving property
4 rights and ownership shall be governed by the customary laws of the place where the
5 property is located.

6

7 **ARTICLE XVII**

8 **AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS**

9 SEC. 153. ***Amendment or Revision.*** – Any amendment to, or revision of this Act
10 may be made by Congress upon recommendation of the majority of all members of the
11 Regional Assembly.

12 SEC. 154. ***Effectivity of Amendment or Revision.*** – Any amendment to or
13 revision of this Organic Act shall become effective when ratified by a majority of the
14 votes cast in a plebiscite called for the purpose which shall be held not earlier than sixty
15 (60) days nor later than ninety (90) days after the approval of such amendment or
16 revisions.

17

18 **ARTICLE XVIII**

19 **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

20 SEC. 155. ***Coverage of the Plebiscite.*** – The coverage of the plebiscite shall
21 be the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, and the
22 chartered City of Baguio. Any two or more provinces or cities voting favorably for this
23 Organic Act in the plebiscite shall comprise the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera
24 while those voting unfavorably for this Organic Act in the plebiscite shall remain within
25 their current region.

26 SEC. 156. ***Election Date.*** – Unless otherwise provided by law, the date of
27 election of the first set of officials of the Regional Government shall be in the next local
28 election following the ratification of this Organic Act in the plebiscite. Subsequent
29 elections shall coincide with the nationwide local elections.

30 SEC. 157. ***Residency Requirement for the First Election.*** – For purposes of
31 the first regional election, candidates must have actually resided and a registered voter
32 in the region for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the election. Provided that

1 they meet all other qualifications and none of the disqualifications under Article V of this
2 Organic Act.

3 SEC. 158. **Cessation of Administrative Offices.** – Except for the regional line
4 agencies, the Cordillera Executive Board, the Cordillera Regional Assembly, and the
5 Cordillera Bodong Administration as a commission, created under Executive Order No.
6 220, and the Cordillera Regional Development Council created by Executive Order No.
7 30 after the de-activation of the above-mentioned Cordillera bodies, shall cease to exist
8 immediately upon the assumption of office of the Regional Governor.

9 SEC. 159. **Seat of the Regional Government.** – The seat of the Regional
10 Government shall be determined by the majority of all members of the Regional
11 Assembly: Provided, however, that the interim seat of the Regional Government shall
12 be in the City of Baguio.

13 SEC. 160. **Oversight Committee.** – Within one (1) month from the
14 organization of the Regional Government, an Oversight Committee composed of the
15 executive secretary as Chairperson, the secretary of the Department of Budget and
16 Management, the Cordillera Regional Governor, the Regional Speaker of the Assembly,
17 the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Chairperson
18 of NCIP as members, shall be organized for the purpose of supervising the transfer to
19 the autonomous region of such powers and functions vested in it by this Organic Act
20 and the appropriations of the offices or agencies including the transfer of properties,
21 assets and liabilities, and all personnel of the line agencies and government-owned or –
22 controlled corporations that may be absorbed by the Regional Government and, with
23 respect to the latter, also the terms and conditions of their turnover, without diminution
24 of their compensation and other benefits. Provided, the salaries of these absorbed
25 personnel shall continue to be funded by the national government.

26

27 Within six (6) months after its organization, the oversight committee shall submit
28 its report and recommendation to the President of the Philippines who shall act on the
29 report and recommendations within ninety (90) days after receipt thereof: Provided,
30 however, that if the President fails to act within said period, the recommendations of
31 the Oversight Committee shall be deemed approved.

32 SEC. 161. **Government Allocations.** – Over and above the regularly given to
33 Local Government Units and regional line agencies, the national government shall
34 continue its annual allotment to the Regional Government. In addition, the national

1 government shall provide the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera an annual assistance
2 of Ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) for the first five (5) years and Five billion
3 pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) for the next five (5) years to be allocated in the following
4 manner:

5 (a) Ninety percent (90%) of the annual subsidy for the Regional Government shall
6 be invested exclusively for revenue generating projects.

7 (b) Ten percent (10%) of the annual subsidy shall remain with the Regional
8 Government as Trust Fund.

9 SEC. 162. Fifty percent of the revenues generated mentioned in Sec. 160 (a)
10 shall be re-invested for income generating projects. The remaining revenues generated
11 shall be distributed as follows:

12 (a) Fifteen percent (15%) to the Regional Government;

13 (b) Thirty five percent (35%) to the Province/ highly urbanized city;

14 SEC. 163. ***Disclosure and Transparency.*** – Funds shall be available
15 exclusively for the specific purpose for which they have been appropriated. Any officer
16 of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera whose duty permits or requires the
17 possession, custody and disbursement of the funds shall be accountable and
18 responsible thereof. Financial records shall be kept, audited and made public annually
19 or as often as maybe necessary.

20 SEC. 164. ***Direct Release of LGUs Share.*** – The share of each local
21 government unit shall be released without need of any further action, directly to the
22 provincial, city, municipal or barangay treasurer, as the case may be on a quarterly
23 basis within five (5) days after the end of each quarter, and which shall not be subject
24 to any lien or hold back that may be imposed by the Regional Government for whatever
25 purpose.

26 SEC. 165. ***Plebiscite.*** – The creation of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera
27 shall take effect when approved by a majority of the votes cast by the constituent units
28 provided in Section 3, Article II of this Act, in a plebiscite which shall be held not earlier
29 than three (3) months but not later than six (6) months after this Act takes effect:
30 Provided, that only the provinces and cities voting favorably in such plebiscite shall be
31 included in the ARC.

32 The sum of Two billion six hundred ninety-five million (P2,695,000,000) is hereby
33 appropriated for the following purposes:

- 1 (a) Twenty million pesos (PhP20,000,000.00) to be allotted to the Regional
2 Development Council for the conduct of a well-coordinated inter-sectoral and
3 inter-agency Regional, Provincial, Municipal and Barangay information campaign
4 on this Act.
- 5 (b) Seventy million pesos (PhP70,000,000.00) shall be equitably divided among the
6 provinces and the city for the conduct of IEC purposes.
- 7 (c) Twenty-Five million pesos (PhP25,000,000.00) to be allotted to the Commission
8 on Elections.
- 9 (d) Eighty million pesos (PhP80,000,000.00) to be allotted to the Regional
10 Government for its initial organizational requirements.
- 11 (e) Two billion five hundred million (P2,500,000,000) for the construction of the
12 regional government center.

13

14 Par (a) and (b) shall be released upon the effectivity of this Organic Act.

15 The Cordillera Development Council with the assistance of the Philippine Information
16 Agency, and in consultation with the provincial/city governments, the Cordillera
17 Association of Regional Executives, and other key stakeholders, shall determine the
18 manner of campaigning and the deputation of government agencies, non-government
19 organizations and other stakeholders for purposes of conducting a well-coordinated
20 information campaign within the first three months after the passage of this Act.

21 The amount of Two billion six hundred ninety-five million (P2,695,000,000) as herein
22 appropriated shall be charged against the contingent fund. Any deficiency thereof shall
23 be taken from any available funds of the national government.

24

25 SEC. 166. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Organic Act is
26 declared as invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part or parts thereof not affected
27 thereby shall remain valid.

28 SEC. 167. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws inconsistent with this Organic Act are
29 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

30 SEC. 168. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
31 its complete publication in the official gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of
32 nationwide circulation.

33 Approved,