

Republic of the Philippines
Regional Legislative Assembly
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Cotabato City

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(Fourth Regular Session)

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Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Tuesday, the twenty-seventh day of April, nineteen hundred and ninety nine.

[**MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT 92**]

AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU ON SENIOR CITIZENS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION. 1. - This Act shall be known as the Regional Senior Citizens Act of 1999.

SEC. 2. - It is the declared policy of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to protect and promote the welfare of its senior citizens and shall, towards this end, adopt a comprehensive program consistent with national policy, Republic Act 7876 and other existing laws.

SEC. 3. - As used in this Act, senior citizens are those defined in Republic Act 7876.

SEC. 4. - There is hereby created a Regional Bureau on Senior Citizens which shall be under the supervision of the Regional Department of Social Welfare and Development. It shall be headed by a director who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. A number of personnel as are necessary and required to run the bureau shall be organized upon the recommendation of the director who shall appoint them pursuant to civil service law.

SEC. 5. - In the exercise of its functions, the bureau shall coordinate closely with the Commission for Senior Citizens of the National Government on the formulation and adoption of policies and programs within the framework of the ARMM Master Plan vis-a-vis the Philippine Development Plan.

SEC. 6.- The Bureau shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Protect and promote senior citizens empowerment and welfare, as well as their involvement and participation in social, economic and political development towards nation-building;
- (b) Seek support and cooperation of regional agencies to address the plight of senior citizens in developmental process in terms of planning, budgeting and implementation of programs;
- (c) Undertake continuing program for senior citizens including grant of privileges in restaurants, movie houses, public utility vehicles, commercial air and water transportations and such others as are authorized by existing laws;
- (d) Serve as regional information resource base on senior citizens and provide the National Commission with data available in the Autonomous Region;
- (e) Conduct research and studies on priority areas for policy conceptualization, formulation and direction for senior citizens;
- (f) Establish linkages with local and national governments as well as non-government organizations, civic and service organizations;
- (g) Solicit or request funding from national and foreign governments, entities or agencies whenever necessary to carry out its mandate; and
- (h) Perform such other functions as may be necessary towards the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. - To carry out these powers and functions, the Bureau shall, with the support of its department, the Office of the Regional Governor and local government concerned, establish senior citizens center in every capital town of each province within the Autonomous Region. It shall likewise identify and maintain a masterlist of senior citizens of the Autonomous Region and issue appropriate identification cards in order to enable them to avail of all the privileges granted by law and such other matters that are relevant and incidental thereto.

SEC. 8. - If any provision of this Act is declared illegal or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and enforceable.

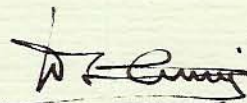
SEC. 9. Appropriation - For the initial organization and operation of the Bureau, the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 500,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any available funds in the Regional Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, its annual budget shall be included in the regular budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SEC. 10. - This act shall take effect upon approval.

APPROVED.


KABILANG G. SEMA
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on October 13, 1999.


WILSON S. ANNI
Secretary-General

APPROVED:

PROF. NUR P. MISUARI
Regional Governor
Date: _____