



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



Thirteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3667**

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**Introduced by Honorable Solomon R. Chungalao**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to provide for the election of sectoral representatives of the Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous People (ICCs/IPs) at local legislative bodies.

It is a policy of the State to recognize and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. Pursuant to this policy, Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as "The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997" was enacted in 1997. Under the law, the ICCs/IPs have been given mandatory representation in policy-making bodies and other local legislative councils as provided in Section 16 of Chapter IV.

Panabo City is one of the cities inhabited by indigenous people with diverse traditions and culture, such as the Bagobos, Matigsalogs, Mansakas, Dibabaons, Isamals, Manguangan and Mandayas. These different tribes and ethnics groups can be identified by their colorful attire and elaborate manner of dressing. These people have their own socio-political and economic aspects of life which are so inter-related that they feel less human in the absence of such aspects of life. At present, they belong to the poorest of the poor. These indigenous cultural communities are human beings and have

supreme rights. They must be recognized and respected on the basis of freedom, justice and peace. They should be afforded equal representation in the decision-making process particularly on matters concerning their interests.

Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as “The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997” provides that the ICCs/IPs must be given equal representation in the decision-making process in order to carry out the policies that will protect and promote their interest and well-being as regards their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions. However, despite the passage of such law, the ICCs/IPs were never assured nor do they enjoy the mandatory seat in local legislative bodies. The Department of the Interior and Local Government Opinion No. 28, Series of 2002 states that “while the law imposes an obligation to provide for sectoral representations to the ICCs/IPs at the local legislative bodies, Congress has not as yet, passed a law providing for their election, hence, the seats allocated for sectoral representatives remain vacant.” Hence this bill.

Its approval is earnestly recommended.



**SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO**



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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE**  
**INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS**  
**PEOPLES IN THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS,**  
**AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
**CODE OF 1991"**

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (b), Section 446, Title two, Book III OF Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as "The Local Government Code of 1991" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 446. *Composition.* – (a) x x x."

"(b) In addition thereto, there shall be three (3) sectoral representatives; one (1) from the women; and, as shall be determined by the sanggunian concerned within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of local elections, one (1) from the agricultural

or industrial workers; and one (1) from the other sectors, including the urban poor[, indigenous cultural communities,] or disabled persons [.]: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN MUNICIPALITIES INHABITED MOSTLY BY INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, ONE (1) SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE FROM SUCH GROUP.”

“(c) x x x.”

SEC. 2. Paragraph (b), Section 457, Title Three, same Book of the same Act, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 457. ***Composition.*** –(a) x x x.

“(b) In addition thereto, there shall be three (3) sectoral representatives: one (1) from the women; and, as shall be determined by the sanggunian concerned within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the local elections, one (1) from the agricultural or industrial workers; and one (1) from the other sectors, including the urban poor[, indigenous cultural communities,] or disabled persons[.]: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN CITIES INHABITED BY INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, ONE (1)

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE FROM SUCH GROUP.”

SEC. 3. Paragraph (b), Section 467, Title Four, same Book of the same Act, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 467. **Composition.** – (a) x x x.

“(b) In addition thereto, there shall be three (3) sectoral representatives: one (1) from the women; and as shall be determined by the sanggunian concerned within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the local elections, one (1) from the agricultural or industrial workers; and one (1) from the other sectors, including the urban poor[, [indigenous cultural communities,] or disabled persons [.]: *PROVIDED*, THAT, IN PROVINCES INHABITED BY THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, ONE (1) SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE FROM SUCH GROUP.”

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,