

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 98



Introduced by REP. TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT

**AN ACT TO INCLUDE ETHNIC ORIGIN IN THE NATIONAL SURVEY
CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides under Article II Section 22 that "The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development." To give life to this, Republic Act No. 8371 otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 was legislated.

Despite these Constitutional pronouncement and legislative act, much is to be desired. This is because of the government's failure to provide accurate data regarding the Ethnic Origin of its population.

Through this legislation, the National Statistics Office (NSO) is mandated to conduct a national survey, which will determine a person's ethnic origin. In cooperation with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), a culturally sensitive national survey shall be conducted to determine the population of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the country. This Bill significantly helps the Philippine Government to properly determine and formulate its plans for IPs throughout the country because it provides a bigger picture of the group that it seeks to strengthen.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT
Representative – Lone District of Ifugao

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Section 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the "Ethnic Origin Census Act of 2013."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to recognize and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. The State shall give the highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities.

Section 3. Definition of Terms - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean the following:

(a) "Ethnic Origin" includes race, national origin and ethno-linguistics origin;

(b) "Indigenous Peoples (IPs) or Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)" shall, as provided under Section 3 (h) of Chapter II of RA No. 8371 or the "Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997", refer to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription by others, who have continuously lived as an organized community on communally-bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social, and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICCs/IPs shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains;

Section 4. Duty of the National Statistics Office (NSO) - It shall be the duty of the National Statistics Office (NSO), in coordination with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to ensure the inclusion of Ethnic Origin in its national survey and national census starting the year 2014 and thereafter. The NSO shall employ NCIP employees as guides of the NSO

enumerators. These NCIP guides taken from the different regions of the country must be knowledgeable of the different ethno-linguistic groups of the Philippines, and must know the dialect and appropriate manner of talking/asking culturally-sensitive questions to IPs or members of ICCs. Furthermore, the NSO should ensure that all surveys and documents issued by their office should be culturally sensitive.

Section 5. Duty of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) - It shall be the duty of the NCIP to conduct the proper training of Enumerators all over the country to ensure that they have adequate knowledge of the different ethno-linguistic groups in their area and manner of asking appropriate and culturally sensitive questions to members of indigenous cultural communities. Each barangay shall have one indigenous guide who shall accompany the NSO enumerator during data gathering. The indigenous guide must be knowledgeable of the dialect, way of life, and culture of the indigenous cultural communities and must be able to communicate with the indigenous communities in their respective areas.

Section 6. Appropriations - The amount of one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) that shall be given to NCIP for the training of NSO enumerators shall be charged against any available appropriation in the General Appropriations Act (*GAA*) of the year of its implementation. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the yearly General Appropriations Act.

Section 7. Separability Clause - If any portion or provision of the Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 8. Repealing Clause - Any provision of law or regulations inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed, revoked, or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,