

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 985



Introduced by REP. TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT

**AN ACT CREATING A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS ACT**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) was a landmark legislation, considered to be one of the best in the world for recognizing and protecting the basic right and culture of Indigenous Peoples (IP).

More than a decade since its passage, the IPRA still has been unable to successfully alleviate the welfare of IPs in the country. What promised to be a shining beacon of hope for its beneficiaries has been dimmed by the passage of time, the bureaucratic muddle and the ineptness of those who have been tasked to oversee the implementation of the IPRA.

Over the years, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) have been accused of collusion with individuals and other parties who take advantage of the lack of knowledge and benign nature of IPs, the people whom they are supposed to protect. Vast tracts of ancestral domains are not in the hands of non-IPs and its original owners uprooted from lands that they have previously possessed since time immemorial. Scarce natural resources located in lands owned by fellow IPs by virtue of their birthright as provided under the law are being exploited by non-IPs. For these reasons, I am re-filing House Bill No. 4563, which I have authored in the 15th Congress.

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


TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT
Lone District, Ifugao

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

SECTION 1. The following section of Republic Act No. 8371 should read as follows:

Section 82. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee- There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) senators and five (5) Representatives. The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Cultural Communities and the Chairperson of the House Committee on National Cultural Communities shall be *ex-officio* members of the Committee. The four (4) Senators and four (4) Representatives shall be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, the Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Cultural Communities and the Chairperson of the House Committee on National Cultural Communities.

The mandate given to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee under this act shall be without prejudice to the performance of the duties and functions by the respective existing oversight committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 83. Section 82 x x x x

Section 84. Section 83 x x x x

Section 85. Section 84 x x x x

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of law or regulations inconsistent herewith is

hereby repealed, revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,