

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**Twentieth Congress**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 621



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This is a refiled bill from last Congress and was taken up by the Committee on Government Reorganization but due to time constraint the Technical Working Committee work did not take off.

Given the significance of this measure, we seek to push for this bill as it seeks to rationalize the administration and adjudication of ancestral lands by amending Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the "Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997."

The protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) is firmly enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. Specifically:

**Article II, Section 22 declares:**

*"The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development."*

**Article XII, Section 5 affirms:**

*"The State, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being."*

Moreover, Congress is empowered under the same provision to provide for the applicability of customary laws in determining property rights and the extent of ancestral domains.

**Article XIII, Section 6 further provides that:**

*"The State shall apply the principles of agrarian reform or stewardship, whenever applicable, in accordance with law, in the disposition or utilization of other natural resources, including lands of the public domain... subject to prior rights, homestead rights of small settlers, and the rights of indigenous communities to their ancestral lands."*

Despite these constitutional guarantees, the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) continues to face challenges. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), tasked with upholding the law, has been hampered by issues such as:

- The proliferation of fraudulent claims over ancestral lands and domains;
- The absence of clear institutional checks and balances;
- And instances where non-ICCs/IPs are involuntarily subjected to customary processes that do not apply to them.

These systemic gaps have led to numerous disputes, undermining the credibility of the ancestral land titling process and eroding public trust in the institutions mandated to protect ICCs/IPs.

To address these challenges, this bill proposes a structural reform:

- The Ancestral Domains Office (ADO) under the NCIP is transferred to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and reorganized as the Ancestral Land Registration and Administration Office (ALRAO).
- The creation of the Ancestral Lands Administration and Adjudication Board (ALAAB) under the Office of the President, which will serve as an independent and impartial body for adjudicating disputes related to ancestral lands and domains.

This reform ensures a more transparent, accountable, and equitable process for the recognition and administration of ancestral domains. It reinforces the original intent of the IPRA while adapting to emerging concerns that threaten the realization of indigenous peoples' rights.

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



**JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO**

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
HOUSE BILL NO. **621**

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AN ACT

RATIONALIZING THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ADMINISTRATION AND  
ADJUDICATION PROCESS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 8371, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “*THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS  
ACT OF 1997*”

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

3  
4 SECTION 1. Section 40 of Republic Act No. 8371 is amended to read as follows:

5  
6 “SECTION 40. Composition. — The NCIP shall be [~~an independent agency~~]  
7 under **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF** the Office of the President and shall be  
8 composed of seven (7) Commissioners belonging to ICCs/IPs, one (1) of whom shall be  
9 the Chairperson. The Commissioners shall be appointed by the President of the  
10 Philippines from a list of recommenders submitted by authentic ICCs/IPs: Provided, That  
11 the seven (7) Commissioners shall be appointed specifically from each of the following  
12 ethnographic areas: Region I and the Cordilleras; Region II; the rest of Luzon; Island  
13 Groups including Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon, Panay and the rest of the Visayas;  
14 Northern and Western Mindanao; Southern and Eastern Mindanao; and Central  
15 Mindanao: Provided, That at least two (2) of the seven (7) Commissioners shall be  
16 women.”

17  
18 SEC. 2. Section 44 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

19  
20 “SECTION 44. Powers and Functions. — To accomplish its mandate, the  
21 NCIP shall have the following powers, jurisdiction and function:

22 “a) x x x;

23

24 “x x x.

1  
2           “e) ~~[To Issue certificate of ancestral land/domain title;]~~ TO RECOMMEND AN  
3 ICCS/IPS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ADMINISTRATION  
4 AND ADJUDICATION BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 46 OF THIS  
5 ACT;

6  
7           “x x x;

8  
9           “~~[m] To issue appropriate certification as a pre-condition to the grant of permit,~~  
10 ~~lease, grant, or any other similar authority for the disposition, utilization, management and~~  
11 ~~appropriation by any private individual, corporate entity or any government agency,~~  
12 ~~corporation or subdivision thereof or any part or portion of the ancestral domain taking~~  
13 ~~into consideration the consensus approval of the ICCs/IPs concerned;]~~

14  
15           “~~[n] To decide on all appeals from the decisions and acts of all the various~~  
16 ~~offices within the Commission.]~~

17  
18           “~~[o]~~ M) To promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation  
19 of this Act;

20  
21           “~~[p]~~ N) To exercise such other powers and functions as may be directed by the  
22 President of the Republic of the Philippines; and

23  
24           “~~[q]~~ O) To represent the Philippines ICCs/Ips in all international conferences and  
25 conventions dealing with indigenous peoples and other related concerns.”

26  
27 SEC. 3. Section 46 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

28  
29           “SECTION 46. Offices ~~[within the NCIP]~~ **RESPONSIBLE FOR THE**  
30 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICIES OF THE ICCs/IPs.**

31           – The [NCIP shall have the] following offices [which] shall be responsible for the  
32 implementation of the policies hereinafter provided:

33  
34           “a) Ancestral ~~[Domains]~~ **LANDS REGISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATION**  
35 **Office– The Ancestral [Domain] LANDS REGISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATION**  
36 **Office (ALRAO) IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCIP** shall be responsible for the  
37 identification, delineation and recognition of ancestral lands/domains. It shall also be  
38 responsible for the management of ancestral lands/domains in accordance with a master  
39 plan as well as the implementation of the ancestral domain rights of the ICCs/IPs as  
40 provided in Chapter III of this Act. It shall also issue, upon the free and prior informed  
41 consent of the ICCs/IPs concerned, certification prior to the grant of any license, lease

1 or permit for the exploitation of natural resources affecting the interests of ICCs/IPs or  
2 their ancestral domains and to assist the ICCs/IPs in protecting the territorial integrity of all  
3 ancestral domains. **THE ALRAO SHALL BE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
4 **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR).** It shall likewise perform  
5 such other functions as the [~~Commission~~] **DENR** may deem appropriate and necessary;

6  
7 “ x x x;

8  
9 **“H) ANCESTRAL LANDS ADMINISTRATION AND ADJUDICATION**  
10 **BOARD. — THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ADMINISTRATION AND**  
11 **ADJUDICATION BOARD (ALAAB) IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED,**  
12 **WHICH SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTLING DISPUTES INVOLVING**  
13 **ANCESTRAL LANDS AND DOMAINS INCLUDING THEIR USES AND**  
14 **UTILIZATIONS. THE ALAAB SHALL ONLY HAVE JURISDICTION IF THE**  
15 **PARTIES APPEAR AND FAIL TO SETTLE BEFORE THE NCIP ACTING AS A**  
16 **MEDIATION BODY.**

17  
18 **“1) THE ALAAB SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:**

19  
20 **“I) ONE (1) INDIGENOUS PERSON WHO IS AN EXPERT IN**  
21 **THE ICCs/IPs CUSTOMARY LAW AND A RESPECTED MEMBER**  
22 **OF THE ICC, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT FROM A LIST**  
23 **OF NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY AUTHENTIC ICCS/IPs;**

24  
25 **“II) CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCIP;**

26  
27 **“III) SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**  
28 **RESOURCES OR THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;**

29  
30 **“IV) SECRETARY OF JUSTICE OR THE AUTHORIZED**  
31 **REPRESENTATIVE;**

32  
33 **“V) SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
34 **OR THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;**

1           **“VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LOCAL**  
2 **GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) THAT HAS JURISDICTION OVER**  
3 **THE ANCESTRAL AND SUBJECT OF THE CONTROVERSY; AND**  
4

5           **“VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CONCERNED**  
6 **ICCs/IPs.**  
7

8           **“THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LGU SHALL BE APPOINTED**  
9 **BY THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
10 **AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONCERNED ICCs/IPs SHALL**  
11 **BE APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCIP.**  
12

13           **“2) THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ALAAB SHALL**  
14 **BE AS FOLLOWS:**  
15

16           **“I) TO SETTLE DISPUTES INVOLVING ANCESTRAL LANDS/**  
17 **DOMAINS;**  
18

19           **“II) TO ISSUE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION AS A PRE-**  
20 **CONDITION TO THE GRANT OF PERMIT, LEASE, GRANT, OR**  
21 **ANY OTHER SIMILAR AUTHORITY FOR THE DISPOSITION,**  
22 **UTILIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND APPROPRIATION BY ANY**  
23 **PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE ENTITY OR ANY**  
24 **GOVERNMENT AGENCY, CORPORATION OR SUBDIVISION**  
25 **THEREOF OR ANY PART OR PORTION OF THE ANCESTRAL**  
26 **DOMAINS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE CONSENSUS**  
27 **APPROVAL OF THE ICCS/IPS CONCERNED; AND**  
28

29           **“III) TO ACT AS AN APPELLATE BODY FOR DENIALS OF**  
30 **CLAIMS OR TITLING FOR ANCESTRAL LANDS/DOMAINS;**  
31

32           **“THE ALAAB SHALL BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS**  
33 **FROM THE PASSAGE OF THIS ACT.”**  
34

35 SEC. 4. Section 52 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:  
36

37           **“SECTION 52. Delineation Process. – The identification and delineation of**  
38 **ancestral domains shall be done in accordance with the following procedures:**  
39

40           **“a) x x x;**

1           “b) Petition for Delineation. – The process of delineating a specific perimeter  
2 may be initiated by the [~~NCIP~~] **ALRAO IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCIP**  
3 **AND** with the consent of the ICC/IP concerned, or through a Petition for Delineation  
4 filed with the [~~NCIP~~] **ALRAO BY THE NCIP UPON THE PETITION OF** [by]  
5 a majority of the members of the ICCs/IPs;  
6

7           “c) Delineation Proper. – The official delineation of ancestral domain boundaries  
8 including census of all community members therein, shall be immediately undertaken by  
9 the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** upon filing of the application by the ICCs/IPs  
10 concerned. Delineation will be done in coordination with the community concerned and  
11 shall at all times include genuine involvement and participation by the members of the  
12 communities concerned;  
13

14           “x x x;

15  
16           “e) Preparation of Maps. – On the basis of such investigation and the findings  
17 of fact based thereon, the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** of the [~~NCIP~~] **DENR**  
18 shall prepare a perimeter map, complete with technical descriptions, and a description  
19 of the natural features and landmarks embraced therein;  
20

21           “f) Report of Investigation and Other Documents. – A complete copy of the  
22 preliminary census and a report of investigation, shall be prepared by the [~~Ancestral~~  
23 ~~Domains Office of the NCIP~~] **ALRAO**;  
24

25           “g) Notice and Publication. – A copy of each document, including a  
26 translation in the native language of the ICCs/IPs concerned shall be posted in a  
27 prominent place therein for at least fifteen (15) days. A copy of the document shall also  
28 be posted at the local, provincial and regional offices of the **NCIP AND DENR**, and  
29 shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for two (2)  
30 consecutive weeks to allow other claimants to file opposition thereto within fifteen  
31 (15) days from date of such publication: Provided, That in areas where no such  
32 newspaper exists, broadcasting in a radio station will be a valid substitute: Provided,  
33 further, That mere posting shall be deemed sufficient if both newspaper and radio station  
34 are not available;  
35

36           “h) Endorsement to [~~NCIP~~] **DENR**. - Within fifteen (15) days from publication,  
37 and of the inspection process, the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall prepare a  
38 report to the [~~NCIP~~] **DENR** endorsing a favorable action upon a claim that is deemed to  
39 have sufficient proof. However, if the proof is deemed insufficient, the [~~Ancestral~~  
40 ~~Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall require the submission of additional evidence: Provided,  
41 That the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall reject any claim that is deemed

1 patently false or fraudulent after inspection and verification: Provided, further, That in  
2 case of rejection, the [Ancestral Domains Office] **ALRAO** shall give the applicant  
3 due notice, copy furnished all concerned, containing the grounds for denial. The  
4 denial shall be appealable to the [NCIP] **ALAAB**: Provided, furthermore, That in cases  
5 where there are conflicting claims among ICCs/IPs on the boundaries of ancestral domain  
6 claims, the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall cause the contending parties to  
7 meet and assist them in coming up with a preliminary resolution of the conflict, without  
8 prejudice to its full adjudication according to the section below[-.];

9  
10 “i) Turnover of Areas Within Ancestral Domains Managed by Other Government  
11 Agencies. - The Chairperson of the [NCIP] **DENR** shall certify that the area covered is  
12 an ancestral domain. The secretaries of the Department of Agrarian Reform,  
13 [~~Department of Environment and Natural Resources~~], Department of the Interior and  
14 Local Government, and Department of Justice, the Commissioner of the National  
15 Development Corporation, and any other government agency claiming jurisdiction over the  
16 area shall be notified thereof. Such notification shall terminate any legal basis for the  
17 jurisdiction previously claimed;

18  
19 “j) Issuance of CADT. – ICCs/IPs whose ancestral domains have been  
20 officially delineated and determined by the [NCIP] **DENR** shall be issued a CADT in the  
21 name of the community concerned, containing a list of all those identified in the census;  
22 and

23  
24 “k) Registration of CADTs. – The [NCIP] **DENR** shall register issued  
25 certificates of ancestral domain titles and certificates of ancestral lands titles before the  
26 Register of Deeds in the place where the property is situated.”

27  
28 SEC. 5. Section 53 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

29  
30 “SECTION 53. Identification, Delineation and Certification of Ancestral Lands.

31  
32 “a) x x x;

33  
34 “b) Individual and indigenous corporate claimants of ancestral lands which are  
35 not within ancestral domains, may have their claims officially established by filing  
36 applications for the identification and delineation of their claims with the [~~Ancestral~~  
37 ~~Domains Office~~] **ALRAO**. An individual or recognized head of a family or clan may file  
38 such application in his behalf or in behalf of his family or clan, respectively;

39  
40 “x x x;

41

1           “d) The [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** may require from each ancestral  
2 claimant the submission of such other documents, Sworn Statements and the like, which  
3 in its opinion, may shed light on the veracity of the contents of the application/claim;  
4

5           “e) Upon receipt of the applications for delineation and recognition of ancestral  
6 land claims, the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall cause the publication of the  
7 application and a copy of each document submitted including a translation in the native  
8 language of the ICCs/IPs concerned in a prominent place therein for at least fifteen (15)  
9 days. A copy of the document shall also be posted at the local, provincial, and  
10 regional offices of the **NCIP AND DENR** and shall be published in a newspaper of  
11 general circulation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks to allow other  
12 claimants to file opposition there to within fifteen (15) days from the date of such  
13 publication: Provided, That in areas where no such newspaper exists, broadcasting in a  
14 radio station will be a valid substitute: Provided, further, That mere posting shall be  
15 deemed sufficient if both newspapers and radio station are not available;  
16

17           “f) Fifteen ( 15) days after such publication, the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~]  
18 **ALRAO IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCIP** shall investigate and inspect each  
19 application, and if found to be meritorious, shall cause a parcellary survey of the area  
20 being claimed. The [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall reject any claim that is  
21 deemed patently false or fraudulent after inspection and verification. In case of  
22 rejection, the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall give the applicant due notice,  
23 copy furnished all concerned, containing the grounds for denial. The denial shall be  
24 appealable to the [~~NCIP~~] **ALAAB**. In case of conflicting claims among individuals or  
25 indigenous corporate claimants, the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRA** shall cause the  
26 contending parties to meet and assist them in coming up with a preliminary resolution of  
27 the conflict, without prejudice to its full adjudication according to Sec. 62 of this Act. In  
28 all proceedings for the identification or delineation of the ancestral domains as herein  
29 provided, the Director of Lands shall represent the interest of the Republic of the  
30 Philippines; and  
31

32           “g) The [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] **ALRAO** shall prepare and submit a  
33 report on each and every application surveyed and delineated to the [~~NCIP~~] **DENR**,  
34 which shall, in turn, evaluate the report submitted. If the **DENR** finds such claim  
35 meritorious, it shall issue a certificate of ancestral land, declaring and certifying the claim  
36 of each individual or corporate (family or clan) claimant over ancestral lands.”  
37

38 **SEC. 6.** Section 54 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:  
39

40           “SECTION 54. Fraudulent Claims. - The [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~]  
41 **ALRAO** may, upon written request from the ICCs/IPs, review existing claims which

1 have been fraudulently acquired by any person or community. Any claim found to be  
2 fraudulently acquired by, and issued to, any person or community may be cancelled by  
3 the [NCIP] DENR after due notice and hearing of all parties concerned.  
4

5 **“THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**  
6 **RESOURCES (DENR) IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCIP SHALL**  
7 **CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN**  
8 **CLAIMS (CADCs) AND CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRAL LAND CLAIMS**  
9 **(CALCs) STILL PENDING WITH THE NCIP THAT HAS NOT RIPENED**  
10 **INTO TITLE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS**  
11 **ACT. THE DENR SHALL REVIEW AND SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE**  
12 **ALAAB WITH THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH SHALL INCLUDE A**  
13 **LIST OF PENDING CADCs AND CALCs THAT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED**  
14 **TO HAVE NO SUBSTANTIAL BASIS AND PROOF OF THEIR CLAIMS**  
15 **WHICH THE ALAAB MAY CANCEL *MOTU PROPRIO*.**  
16

17 **“THE DENR SECRETARY SHALL ISSUE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS**  
18 **FROM RECEIPT OF THE REPORT, THE FINAL DECISION AND EFFECT**  
19 **THE CANCELLATION OF THESE CERTIFICATES AND PURSUE THE**  
20 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.**  
21

22 **“THE LIST OF CANCELLED CERTIFICATES, THEIR HOLDERS, AND**  
23 **LOCATIONS SHALL BE DULY PUBLISHED IN TWO (2) NEWSPAPERS OF**  
24 **GENERAL CIRCULATION AND ONE (1) NEWSPAPER OF REGIONAL**  
25 **CIRCULATION WHERE THE ANCESTRAL PROPERTY IS LOCATED. IT**  
26 **SHALL ALSO BE POSTED IN THE DIFFERENT LGUs WHERE SAID**  
27 **CLAIMS ARE SITUATED AND IN THE OFFICES OF THE DENR FOR**  
28 **PROPER DISSEMINATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**  
29

30 **“THE DENR IS NOT PRECLUDED FROM PURSUING THE**  
31 **APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS OF**  
32 **THESE FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.”**  
33

34 SEC. 7. Section 59 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:  
35

36 **“SECTION 59. Certification Precondition. - All departments and other**  
37 **governmental agencies shall henceforth be strictly enjoined from issuing, renewing, or**  
38 **granting any concession, license or lease, or entering into any production-sharing**  
39 **agreement, without prior certification from the [NCIP] DENR that the area affected does**  
40 **not overlap with any ancestral domain. Such certification shall only be issued after a field-**  
41 **based investigation is conducted by the [~~Ancestral Domains Office~~] ALRAO of the area**

1 concerned: Provided, That no certification shall be issued by the [NCIP] DENR without  
2 the free and prior informed and written consent of ICCs/IPs concerned: [~~Provided,~~  
3 ~~further, That no department, government agency or government owned or controlled~~  
4 ~~corporation may issue new concession, license, lease, or production sharing~~  
5 ~~agreement while there is a pending application for a CADT:~~] Provided, finally, That  
6 the ICCs/IPs shall have the right to stop or suspend, in accordance with this Act,  
7 any project that has not satisfied the requirement of this consultation process.”

8  
9 SEC. 8. Section 62 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

10  
11 “SECTION 62. Resolution of Conflicts. – In cases of conflicting interest, where  
12 there are adverse claims within the ancestral domains as delineated in the survey plan,  
13 and which cannot be resolved, the NCIP shall **ACT AS A MEDIATION BODY TO**  
14 **TRY AND SETTLE THE DISPUTE. IF THE PARTIES FAIL TO SETTLE AND**  
15 **AFTER NOTICE TO THE PROPER PARTIES THE ALAAB SHALL** hear and  
16 decide, [~~after notice to the proper parties;~~] the disputes arising from the delineation of  
17 such ancestral domains [~~:- Provided, That if the dispute is between and/or among ICCs/IPs~~  
18 ~~regarding the].~~ **THE** traditional boundaries of [~~their~~] **THE** respective ancestral domains [,]  
19 **AND** customary process **OF THE ICCs/IPs CONCERNED** shall be followed. The  
20 [NCIP] **ALAAB** shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out its  
21 adjudicatory functions: Provided, further, that any decision, order, award or ruling of the  
22 [NCIP] **ALAAB** on any ancestral domain dispute or on any matter pertaining to the  
23 application, implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this Act may be brought for  
24 Petition for Review to the Court of Appeals within fifteen (15) days from receipt of a  
25 copy thereof.”

26  
27 SEC. 9. Section 64 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

28  
29 “SECTION 64. Remedial Measures. – Expropriation may be resorted to in  
30 the resolution of conflicts of interest following the principle of the "common good". The  
31 [NCIP] **ALRAO** shall take appropriate legal action for the cancellation of officially  
32 documented titles which were acquired illegally: Provided, That such procedure shall  
33 ensure that the rights of possessors in good faith shall be respected: Provided, further,  
34 That the action for cancellation shall be initiated within two (2) years from the  
35 effectivity of this Act: Provided, finally, That the action for reconveyance shall be  
36 within a period of ten (10) years in accordance with existing laws.”

37  
38 SEC. 10. Section 66 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

39  
40 “SECTION 66. Jurisdiction of the NCIP. - The NCIP, through its regional offices,  
41 shall have jurisdiction over all claims and disputes involving rights of ICCs/IPs **EXCEPT**  
42 **IN CASES INVOLVING ANCESTRAL LANDS AND DOMAINS WHICH**

1 **SHALL BE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ALAAB:** Provided, however,  
2 That no such dispute shall be brought to the NCIP unless the parties have exhausted all  
3 remedies provided under their customary laws. For this purpose, a certification shall be  
4 issued by the Council of Elders/Leaders who participated in the attempt to settle the  
5 dispute that the same has not been resolved, which certification shall be a condition  
6 precedent to the filing of a petition with the [NCIP] DENR.

7  
8 **“IN CASES INVOLVING ANCESTRAL LAND OR DOMAIN DISPUTES,**  
9 **THE NCIP SHALL ACT AS A MEDIATION BODY. THE MEDIATION SHALL**  
10 **BE A PRE- REQUISITE FOR FILING BEFORE THE ALAAB AND SHALL BE A**  
11 **GROUND FOR DISMISSAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO REFILING UPON**  
12 **COMPLIANCE.”**

13  
14 SEC. 11 Section 67 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

15  
16 **“SECTION 67. Appeals to the Court of Appeals. - Decisions of the NCIP NOT**  
17 **INVOLVING ANCESTRAL LAND OR DOMAIN** shall be appealable to the Court of  
18 Appeals (CA) by way of a petition for review.”

19  
20 SEC. 12. Section 68 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

21  
22 **“SECTION 68. Execution of Decisions, Awards, Orders. – Upon expiration of the**  
23 **period herein provided and no appeal is perfected by any of the contending parties, the**  
24 **Hearing Officer of the NCIP, on its own initiative or upon motion by the prevailing**  
25 **party, shall issue a writ of execution requiring the sheriff or the proper officer to execute**  
26 **final decisions, orders or awards of the Regional Hearing Officer of the NCIP.**

27  
28 **“UPON EXPIRATION OF THE FIFTEEN (15) DAYS PERIOD FROM**  
29 **RECEIPT OF THE DECISION OF THE ALAAB TO FILE AN APPEAL WITH**  
30 **THE CA, THE ALAAB MAY ISSUE A WRIT OF EXECUTION REQUIRING**  
31 **THE SHERIFF OR THE PROPER OFFICER TO EXECUTE THE FINAL**  
32 **DECISIONS, ORDERS OR AWARDS OF THE ALAAB.”**

33  
34 SEC. 12. Section 69 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

35  
36 **“SECTION 69. Quasi - Judicial Powers of the NCIP AND THE ALAAB. —**  
37 **The NCIP AND THE ALAAB shall have the power and authority:**

38  
39 **“a) x x x;**

40  
41 **“b) x x x;**

1           “c) To hold [~~any person~~] **ITS LITIGANTS AND ANY PERSON UNDER ITS**  
2     **JURISDICTIONS** in contempt, directly or indirectly, and impose appropriate penalties  
3     therefor; and  
4

5           “d) x x x.”  
6

7     SEC. 13. Upon the effectivity of this Act, all assets, resources, personnel and liabilities  
8     of the former Ancestral Domains Office under the NCIP shall be transferred to the ALRAO  
9     under the DENR.  
10

11     SEC. 14. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*  
12     *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

          Approved,