

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4585



Introduced by
ATTY. MARLO C. BANCORO, First District of Zamboanga Sibugay and
REP. MARLESA "DOC MARLY" HOFER-HASIM, Second District of
Zamboanga Sibugay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, together with Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA), mandates the State to uphold and promote the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), including the recognition of ancestral domains, self-governance, social justice and cultural integrity.

Indigenous Peoples, particularly the Subanen, Kalibugan, Sama Bangingi and Yakan, comprise a significant part of Zamboanga Sibugay's population. As of 2020, there are approximately 92,778 Subanen/Subanon, 13,795 Kalibugans, 19,713 Sama Bangingi and 2,451 Yakan in the province. Collectively, IP communities occupy an estimated 59,797 hectares of ancestral lands within the province.¹

As one of the IP-rich provinces in the Philippines, Zamboanga Sibugay's residents, including tribal members, face significant challenges in accessing the NCIP's services which are currently centralized and physically distant. The travel distance to major urban centers hosting NCIP regional or provincial offices is considerable. For instance, the road distance to Zamboanga City is approximately 204 kilometers, a journey of nearly 4 to 6 hours via bus or vehicle, imposing financial and logistical burdens on indigenous constituents. While we have a current NCIP office in Zamboanga Sibugay located in the Municipality of Ipil, it only operates as an interim provincial office which means that it is a temporary or transitional office.

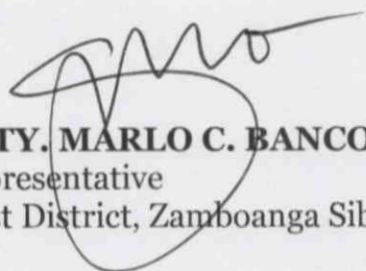
Thus, this bill seeks the establishment of a Provincial Office of the NCIP in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay to be located in the Municipality of Ipil. This would bring government services closer to the IP communities, facilitating more efficient delivery of ancestral domain processing, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

¹ Republic of the Philippines National Economic and Development Authority Commission on Population and Development Region IX, 2023-2028.

<https://region9.cpd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ZamPen-Regional-Situationer.pdf>

procedures, social welfare access, cultural preservation initiatives and conflict resolution mechanisms. It would also meaningfully complement the mandate of IPRA and foster greater inclusion.

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



ATTY. MARLO C. BANCORO
Representative
First District, Zamboanga Sibugay



HON. MARLESA "DOC MARLY"
HOFER-HASIM
Representative
Second District, Zamboanga Sibugay

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4585

Introduced by
ATTY. MARLO C. BANCORO, First District of Zamboanga Sibugay and
REP. MARLESA "DOC MARLY" HOFER-HASIM, Second District of
Zamboanga Sibugay

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP) IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF IPIL, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of NCIP Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office.* – There shall be established, under the direct supervision of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, a Provincial Office in the Municipality of Ipil, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, to be known as the NCIP Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office, which shall exercise jurisdiction over the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPPs) within the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

SEC. 2. *Functions.* – The NCIP Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office shall perform the following functions:

- a) Implement NCIP programs, projects and services for ICCs/IPs within its jurisdiction;
- b) Assist in the identification, delineation and recognition of ancestral domains and lands;
- c) Facilitate access of ICCs/IPs to government programs and services, including but not limited to education, healthcare, livelihood assistance and legal support;
- d) Mediate and resolve disputes involving IP rights in accordance with customary laws and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997;
- e) Maintain and regularly update a registry of ICCs/IPs within the province; and,
- f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commission to effectively carry out its mandates.

SEC. 3. ***Transfer of Records and Assets.*** – The Chairperson of the NCIP shall cause the transfer of relevant records, property, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for establishment and operation of the NCIP Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office, in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 4. ***Creation of Positions.*** – The NCIP is hereby authorized to create the necessary positions for the effective operation of the Provincial Office, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. ***Appropriations.*** – The Chairperson of the NCIP shall include in the Commission's annual budget proposal the funding requirements for the operationalization of the NCIP Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office. The initial funding shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the NCIP, and thereafter, the succeeding funding shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCIP shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and other issuance inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. ***Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,