

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 579

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **REP. JOSE T. PANGANIBAN, JR.,**
of ANAC-IP Partylist

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 22 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “(T)he State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.” Hence, the promotion of a society recognizing and promoting the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) within the framework of the 1987 Constitution and Republic Act 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997.

To date, there is an estimated 22 million people who are members of ICCs/IPs. However, almost 60% of them are not duly registered under the Philippine Civil Registration Act. Worst, the surveys and census of population conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), formerly National Statistics Office (NSO), did not include the ethnic origin of a person. Thus, there is no available data of the ethno-linguistics origin of the Philippine populace. Not even the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the primary Government agency mandated in the formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programs to recognize, protect, and promote the rights of ICCs/IPS in accordance with the provisions of the 1987 Constitution and RA 8371, has no compilation of this data.

This measure seeks to collect, update, and create a database of ethnic origin of all and every Filipino.

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


JOSE T. PANGANIBAN, JR.
Representative, ANAC-IP Partylist

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
TO INCLUDE ETHNIC ORIGIN IN THE NATIONAL CENSUS SURVEY

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Ethnic Origin Census Act of 2016.*”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to recognize and promote the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) 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 of a person;

(b) **Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs)** as provided under Section 3 (h) of Chapter II of RA No. 8371, otherwise known as, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, refer to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and 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 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).* – It shall be the duty of the Philippine Statistics Authority (formerly National Statistics Office), in coordination with the National Commission of the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to ensure the inclusion of the Ethnic Origin of a person in its national survey and national census starting the year 2016 and thereafter. The PSA shall employ NCIP employees as guides of the PSA 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 members of ICCs/IPs. Furthermore, the PSA shall 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 ICCs. Each barangay shall have one guide who is a member of ICC/IP and who will accompany the NSO enumerator during data gathering. The indigenous guide must be knowledgeable of the dialect, way of life, and culture of the ICC and must be able to communicate with the IPs in their respective areas.

Section 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php.100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated to the office of NCIP for the training of enumerators and the amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (Php.200,000,000.00) shall be appropriated to the office of the Philippine Statistics Authority for the initial implementation of this Act. These amounts 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 annual 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,

