

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6658, June 10, 1988]

AN ACT CREATING THE CORDILLERA REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title of the Act.* — This Act shall be known as "The Cordillera Regional Consultative Commission Act of 1988."

SEC. 2. *Purpose of the Commission.* — It is the purpose of the Regional Consultative Commission to assist and participate in the formulation by Congress of the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in the Cordilleras.

SEC. 3. *Composition of the Commission.* — To carry out the above purpose, and considering the ethno-linguistic, geographical, sectoral and educational and cultural factors, there is hereby created the Regional Consultative Commission for the Cordilleras, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," which shall be composed of not more than thirty (30) members to be appointed by the President, eighteen (18) of whom shall be selected from a list of nominees proposed by the different bodies coming from the Provinces of Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao and Mountain Province, as well as the chartered City of Baguio in formal written consultation with the elective representative of the district and/or the senator from the region, if any: *Provided*, That each of the six (6) legislative districts in the abovementioned provinces and city shall have at least three (3) representatives: *Provided, further*, That all nominees to the Regional Consultative Commission shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications.* — No person shall be appointed member of the Commission unless he or she is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of his or her appointment, a resident of the region for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the appointment, a qualified voter or one who may qualify as such, and of recognized probity, integrity, independence and nationalism.

SEC. 5. *Disqualifications.* — The following are disqualified from being members of the Commission:

- a. Persons disqualified under the Constitution, and existing laws;
- b. Persons convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 6. *Oath or Affirmation.* — Members of the Commission shall qualify and assume office by taking the following oath or affirmation:

"I, (name), having been appointed to the position of Member of the Regional Consultative Commission, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position to assist Congress in the enactment of an organic act for the Cordilleras that is truly reflective of the ideals and aspirations of the people therein; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines; that I will obey the laws and legal orders promulgated by the duly constituted authorities and maintain true faith and allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God."

Provided, That in case of affirmation, the last sentence may be omitted.

SEC. 7. *Organization.* — (a) The President shall designate the person who shall take charge of all arrangements for the convening of the Regional Consultative Commission.

(b) The Commission shall be convened by authority of the President within fifteen (15) days after the approval of this Act, in the City of Baguio at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, or on such other date, or in such other place, as may be fixed by the President.

(c) The President of the Philippines or her duly authorized representative shall preside at its opening session until a presiding officer is elected by the Commission. The Commission shall be deemed organized upon the election and qualification of a Chairman and presiding officer.

(d) A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may meet, adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as the Commission may provide.

(e) The Commission may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members, expel a member.

(f) While not attending sessions, the Commissioners shall hold office in their respective districts. The Commission Secretariat shall be based in the City of Baguio, or in such other place as may be fixed by the Commission.

(g) The plenary sessions of the Commission shall be public and recorded. It shall hold its sessions in the City of Baguio, or in such other place as may be fixed by the Commission or any of its committees.

Consultation with committees of either House of Congress shall be held at their respective seats in Metropolitan Manila.

(h) The buildings of the Baguio Convention Center and their premises in the City of